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January 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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January 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHEASTERN ALBERTA FIRMS RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Two northeastern Alberta firms will receive financial assistance totalling $36,163 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

The Bread Basket (Wainwright) Ltd. will receive $23,397 to build a new bakery in Wainwright. It presently employs four people and serves the residents of the town and surrounding area. The cost of the new facility is estimated to be $78,000.

Grande Centre Bakery (1980) Ltd of Grande Centre will receive $12,766 so that it can be relocated in a more convenient place. It is one of only four bakeries that serve this northern area. The estimated cost of the relocation is $47,000 and five or six full-time jobs are expected to be created.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion and Alberta Agriculture. Since it was signed in 1975, more than $23 million have been offered to food processors in rural Alberta.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Alberta Agriculture at 427-4287.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECORD NUMBER OF FARMING FOR THE FUTURE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Interest in conducting new agricultural research in the province remains extremely high, if the number of applications for funding from Alberta's Farming for the Future Program is any indication.

As the program swings into its annual approval process, Farming for the Future has received more applications for new funding than at any time since its inception five years ago.

"It's similar to the situation we faced when Farming for the Future first requested applications from the research community in 1978," says Dr. A.O. Olson, secretary of the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta (ARCA), which administers the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Program. In that case, as in the present case, Farming for the Future was entering a new phase that required it to start with a whole new slate of projects.

The end of Farming for the Future's current mandate is one reason for the increased number of applications. Under the original five-year mandate, all Farming for the Future projects must be terminated and final reports submitted by March 31, 1984.

This year the ARCA has received 251 applications, approximately 100 more than last year. And the new applications contain requests for more than $12.8 million in new funding. This is more than twice the maximum funding that is available for Farming for the Future's Research Program in 1984-85.

Last fall the Legislature gave approval for Farming for the Future to begin a second mandate with a funding allocation of $5 million for 1984-85. Funding for subsequent years will require additional approval.

In 1984-85 Farming for the Future will continue to concentrate on two major programs: the Research Program, designed for institutional and private sector research

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Record Number Of Farming For the Future Applications Received (cont'd)

efforts, and the successful On-Farm Demonstration Program in which producers attempt to use current research in everyday production through regional trials and demonstrations.

"The number of applications before us exceeds even our most optimistic estimates," says Dr. Olson. "I guess it shows times are tight everywhere and agricultural researchers are having to fight for dollars just like researchers in other fields.

"However," says Dr. Olson, "this places increased pressure on agencies like the Agricultural Research Council which must evaluate the quality of each proposal against both the needs of the agriculture industry and the limited resources available to Farming for the Future.

"Therefore, as previously announced by the minister, this year we will be stressing three things: increased accountability by all researchers; research which can be conducted inside Alberta; and research which appears to meet the more immediate needs of Alberta's producers and processors.

"In the end," says Dr. Olson, "we must remember the producer is our most important client. We will continue to do our best to ensure his requirements for new technology are met."

All applications for Farming for the Future funding are being assessed by individual program committees which will forward their recommendations to the ARCA during January. The full council will meet midway through February and projects which have been approved will be announced in mid-March.

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January 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND FARM INTEREST SHIELDING PROGRAM

Although March 1, 1984 is the deadline for first-time applications for the Alberta Heritage Fund Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program, anyone who would like to take advantage of it is advised to contact his or her lender before the middle of February in order to complete the required interest confirmation forms.

Doug Barlund of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds stresses that first-time applications will not be accepted after March 1, and he says that prospective applicants should note that they may be eligible for a retroactive interest shielding rebate on loans incurred in 1982 and 1983 that had an interest rate in excess of 14.5 per cent.

To qualify for this interest reduction program, the applicant must have been the owner of a farm or small business that did not generate more than $5 million in total revenue or sales during the past fiscal year. He or she must also have been in business before September 1, 1982, still be in business now and have a debt with a financial institution that was recorded before September 1, 1982. The majority of the owners or shareholders of the farm or business must be residents of Alberta and at least 75 per cent of any staff that are employed must be employed in Alberta.

Finally, the business must be an "active" Alberta business in which 50 per cent or more of the income is derived from "active business income". According to Mr. Barlund, "active business income means income that is derived from: farming; manufacturing or processing goods for sale or lease; mining; the operation of an oil or gas well, prospecting; exploring or drilling for natural resources; construction; logging; selling property as a principal source of income; transportation; or any other business except for the investment business or a business which derives its income from rural or urban rental properties.

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Application Deadline For Small Business And Farm Interest Shielding Program (cont'd)

The purpose of the Alberta Heritage Fund and Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program, announced by the Alberta Government in September, 1982, and retroactive to March 1, 1982, is to reduce interest rates on farm and small business loans to 14.5 per cent. The maximum reduction is 6 per cent, and the maximum amount of loan that is eligible for shielding is $150,000. Mr. Barlund points out that any financial assistance that has or is being received under other Alberta or federal business interest shielding programs will be taken into account when the amount of financial assistance that is obtainable under the Alberta Heritage Fund Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program is being determined.

Anyone who wants to apply under the Alberta Heritage Fund Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program for a reduction in the rate of business interest he or she pays can obtain an application form from any branch of any financial institution in Alberta or contact the program offices in Edmonton or Calgary. The address in Edmonton is Fourth Floor, Financial Building, 10621-100 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J OB3 (Telephone: 422-5522). The address in Calgary is Fourth Floor, Ford Tower, 633 - 6th Avenue, S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2Y5, Telephone: 261-5235).

The toll-free number for either office is 1-800-642-3830.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF COW HERD MANAGEMENT PRIOR TO CALVING

by Ross Gould
Alberta Agriculture

The way that beef cows are fed during their last three months of pregnancy will have a direct bearing on the health of their calves at birth as well as on the cows' rebreeding schedules.

Because an unborn calf mainly consists of protein, a pregnant cow's need for protein increases as calving time approaches. Extra nutrients are required 90 days before she calves to ensure that her unborn calf grows properly and that it is born healthy and that its mother has milk. A cow's precalving nutrition also has many important implications in relation to her calf's resistance to both disease and stress.

The reproductive performance of beef cows is greatly affected by the level of energy they receive before calving. Underfed cows are slow to return to their normal heat cycle and their conception rates are lower when they are bred. In fact, an inadequate feed intake is probably the main cause of poor reproductive performance in beef cattle. Their feed requirements increase during their last three months of pregnancy because the fetus makes 70 per cent of its growth during this period.

If a cow is to calve every 365 days, she must be bred within 83 days of having calved. This means that there are only about 40 days from the time she calves until her uterus must be in condition for her to become pregnant again.

It is a good practice to meet the needs of the different groups in a cow herd by dividing them into groups which have the same needs. In other words, divide them into replacement heifers, first-calf heifers, older, thin cows and prime-of-life cows. The first and third groups should be fed to gain half a pound per day until they calve.

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Beef Cow Herd Management Prior To Calving (cont'd)

A pregnant beef cow that is in good condition and that weighs 1,100 pounds requires about 22 pounds of feed per day and about 1.3 pounds of crude protein. However, this level of feed should be increased by one per cent for each degree that the temperature drops below -10° C.

The beef herd should also have access to a trace mineral salt-phosphorous mixture, and special minerals like magnesium, to prevent grass tetany, and selenium should be added to the mixture when needed. They are more likely to be needed if straw or weathered hay make up the bulk of the ration. Low quality winter feeds and poor management practices can result in the development of serious nutritional disturbances.

Other good management practices include watching cows for prolapses (the greatest number occur during the last third of pregnancy); abortions (the cause of which should be diagnosed if possible); and unexpectedly early calves.

Finally, it is a good idea to vaccinate the cows for calf scours if this disease has been a problem in the past and to feed the cows after 6 p.m. as this may result in more calves being born in daylight.

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January 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE USE OF ELECTROLYTES FOR SWINE AND POULTRY

Did you know that when swine and poultry are exposed to stress by such things as excessive handling, transportation, water and feed deprivation or bad weather, the subsequent dehydration and loss of electrolytes (body salts) can result in disease?

Sam Jaikaran, a monogastric nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture, points out that electrolytes are components of body fluids which are essential for the normal functioning of the body. In fact, they are essential to the life process.

It has been shown that water by itself is not suitable for relieving dehydration. Alone, it can actually aggravate the dehydration by diluting the electrolyte reserve in the blood stream. Mr. Jaikaran explains that a dehydrated animal or bird will react to a drink of water by mobilizing the electrolytes that are in its blood stream and moving them into the intestines where the concentration is lower. When this happens the loss of electrolytes from the body tissues will result in a generalized weakness, referred to as "water intoxication."

Since electrolytes move from an area of high concentration to one of low concentration, their supplementary use in drinking water can increase their concentration in the intestines to the point where the level is higher than it is in the blood stream. The result of this will be the absorption rather than excretion of electrolytes through the intestinal wall. Because the absorption of electrolytes is accompanied by the absorption of water, dehydration is prevented or corrected.

According to Mr. Jaikaran, electrolytes are also important when used with water-soluble antibiotics to treat disease. After having been absorbed from the intestines, water-soluble antibiotics are passed through the liver before they go into general circulation. Because

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The Use Of Electrolytes For Swine And Poultry (cont'd)

they are chemically changed by the action of enzymes in the liver, and then require body fluids to transport them through the body, it is vital that the level of these fluids be maintained by the early recognition and correction of dehydration.

Mr. Jaikaran says electrolytes may be used with any water-soluble medication, and that they work together to maintain or restore the body's fluid balance, thereby achieving an early recovery from disease. He advises all swine and poultry producers to evaluate the economics of using an electrolyte solution and water-soluble antibiotics for treating an infectious disease that is complicated by dehydration.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG TRANSIT DEATH LOSSES

Research has shown that most of the hog deaths that occur during transit could be prevented by better management.

The research was done by Dr. Edward Clark of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He received funding under Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future Program to help him to carry out his investigations into the reasons why some swine producers and truckers have so many hogs die in transit.

When Dr. Clark's research was started in 1976, hog death losses during transit in Saskatchewan averaged 2.4 per thousand hogs marketed. The figure for Alberta in 1982 was 1.86 hogs per thousand for a total financial loss from deaths alone of about $375,000. The losses from damaged and down-graded carcasses would have to be added to this figure to get the complete picture of the financial loss.

Dr. Clark's post-mortem on 360 hogs that had died in transit showed that the vast majority were not diseased, but had died from heart failure. He also performed blood tests on hogs in two herds that had a record of high in-transit losses and in one herd that had a good record in this respect before the hogs left the farm and again just before they were slaughtered.

As a result of his research, he has concluded that the higher death rates in some swine herds are the result of handling and transportation methods rather than of an inborn susceptibility to stress, and therefore, preventable by good management.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOOK NOW FOR MANAGING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY FOR PROFIT

Anyone who would like to attend "Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit" should get his or her application in as soon as possible because this extremely popular annual seminar is always fully booked. It is scheduled to take place at the Banff Centre in Banff from March 30 to April 2, 1984.

Designed to provide participants with the latest information on farm production and business management techniques and practices, it covers a wide range of relevant topics, all of which will be presented by highly competent researchers.

The 18 topics on this year's agenda will include: the importance of satellite remote sensing to the farming industry; innovations in farm machinery and the way electronics are revolutionizing this industry; alternative uses of farm machinery (leasing, custom work, renting) to make the best use of it; situations where joint ventures can be useful and the difference between them and partnerships; tax management and year-end planning; the pros and cons of applying nitrogen fertilizers in the spring and fall, the advantages and disadvantages of anhydrous ammonia compared with granular nitrogen and how legumes can benefit the soil; precautions a farmer can take to protect himself against agribusiness bankruptcies; new developments in the livestock sector; off-farm investments; and the different ways of marketing grains and oilseeds.

There will be four "select-a-session" topics that will run simultaneously (some topics will be presented only once but most will be presented twice) and there will be a fifth session that will concentrate exclusively on computer technology. Micro-computer exhibitors will demonstrate their agriculturally-related equipment and their software. There will also be private rooms where those interested in computers can go to ask questions and to see the equipment in operation.

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Book Now For Managing Agricultural Technology For Profit (cont'd)

Dr. Y.T. Kee of the University of Manitoba will open the seminar with his talk entitled "The Pursuit of Excellence — Japanese Style". In it he will discuss how Canadian farmers can learn from the innovations that are being used by the Japanese in their various industries.

Application forms for Alberta Agriculture's "Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit" are available from district extension offices, seed cleaning plants and the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1P0.

The cost of the seminar will be $150 for husband and wife and $125 for a single person, which does not cover accomodation or meals.

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January 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE USE OF SEX ATTRACTANTS FOR INSECT CONTROL

A great deal of attention has been focused on insect sex attractants, because of all the pheromones that are used in the animal and insect kingdoms to communicate, they appear to have the greatest potential in the control of insect pests.

According to Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist with Alberta Agriculture, it is possible to make synthetic sex attractants which contain the same chemical as the natural product or that resemble it so closely that the insects are fooled into responding to it in the same way that they would respond to a member of their own species. He says these products can be used to confuse the males of a specific species, and, thereby, reduce the number of successful matings or they can be used in traps, called pheromone traps, to trap the males and again reduce the number of matings. However, this form of control is only practical in an isolated area where there are only a few insects and if an unlimited quantity of the chemical is available.

"Far greater success has been achieved," says Dr. Soehngen," when synthetic sex attractants have been used as bait in the pheromone traps to monitor the presence of insect numbers. The information obtained can be used to predict a potential outbreak so that farmers can be warned in advance of such a possibility."

Unfortunately, however, knowing the number of adult insects in a particular area does not give an accurate indication of the size of the larval population to be expected. This is because of the multitude of factors that influence the development of an insect from when it hatches until when it reaches maturity. And it is impossible to predict the amount of damage that the larvae are likely to do to the crop because of all the factors that influence its development.

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The Use Of Sex Attractants For Insect Control (cont'd)

However, according to Mr. Soehngen, considerable benefits have been derived from the use of pheromone traps to monitor insect pests. He says prior to their use, some farmers would use pesticides unnecessarily, while others would not detect an infestation in time to prevent serious losses. The use of pheromone traps for insect monitoring means that farmers can be given early warning of a possible problem and can check their fields for larval damage.

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1984

Palliser Wheat Growers' Association
Hotel Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . January 4 - 6

Canadian Alfalfa Seed School
Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . January 9 - 10

Unifarm Annual Convention
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 9 - 13

Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association - Annual Meeting
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . January 13 - 14

Alberta Branch - Canadian Seed Growers' Association Annual Meeting
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 16 - 18

Alberta Pork Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . January 18 - 20

Alberta Association of Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Annual Conference
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 19 - 21

National Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention and Trade Show
New Orleans
Louisiana, U.S.A . . . . . January 23 - 25

Alberta Canola Growers' Association — Annual Convention
Four Seasons Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 25 - 27

Canadian Meat Council Annual Conference
Quebec City
Quebec . . . . . February 2 - 3

Canadian Charolais Association Annual Meeting and Convention
Holiday Inn — Downtown
London, Ontario . . . . . February 2 - 4

Western Stock Growers' Association Annual Convention
Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . February 2 - 4

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . February 6 - 8

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Provincial Dairy Convention and Annual Meeting
Convention Inn Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta ..... February 6 - 8

Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Edmonton, Alberta ..... February 7 - 9

Western Canadian Economic Conference on the Food Industry
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... February 13 - 14

Prairie Potato Council – Annual Meeting
Bessborough Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... February 18 - 21

Alberta Soil Science Workshop
Convention Inn
Edmonton, Alberta ..... February 21 - 22

Arboriculture Seminar on Planting and Maintenance of Trees
Don Valley Holiday Inn
North York
Metro Toronto, Ontario ..... February 21 - 22

American Sod Producers' Association Midwinter Conference
Hilton Riviera
Palm Springs, California, U.S.A. ..... February 21 - 23

Western Canadian Society of Horticulture
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... February 21 - 24

International Society of Arboriculture, Canada Inc. -- Annual Convention
Don Valley Holiday Inn
North York
Metro Toronto, Ontario ..... February 23 - 24

Ag-Expo
Lethbridge and District Exhibition
Lethbridge, Alberta ..... February 29 - March 3

Agriculture Week
Province of Alberta ..... March 5 - 11

Canadian Cattlemen's Association – Annual Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn
Toronto, Ontario ..... March 10

Accent '84
Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta ..... March 13 - 14

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Winter Wheat Production and Marketing Seminar
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . March 21

Canola Council of Canada
Bayshore Inn
Vancouver, B.C . . . . . March 26 - 28

Northlands Stock Show and Sale
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . March 28 - 31

Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (Spring Convention)
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . March 27 - 28

Canadian Western Farm and Ranch Show
Northlands
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . March 28 - 31

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit Conference
Banff, Alberta . . . . . March 30 - April 2

Canadian Forestry Association — Annual Meeting
Ottawa, Ontario . . . . . March

Alberta Dairy Seminar
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff, Alberta . . . . . April 4 - 6

"Agenda for Action"
Conference on Managing Western Canada's Water Resources
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . May

International Congress on Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination
Urbana-Champaign
Illinois, U.S.A . . . . . June 10 - 14

Western Canada Farm Progress Show
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . June 20 - 23

Summer Meeting of American Society of Agricultural Engineers
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee, U.S.A . . . . . June 24 - 27

Canadian Seed Trade Association Meeting
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 8 - 11

1984 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour
Athabasca, Alberta . . . . . July 10 - 12

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

National Canadian Seed Growers' Association Convention
Holiday Inn - Downtown
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . July 12 - 13

National Alfalfa Improvement Conference
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . July 16 - 20

Edmonton's Klondike Days Exposition
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 19 - 28

Canadian Society of Extension Annual Conference
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . August 19 - 23

Agricultural Institute of Canada Annual Conference
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . August 19 - 23

Canadian Society of Soil Science
Banff School of Fine Arts
Banff, Alberta . . . . . August 26 - 29

American Water Resources Conference
New York, U.S.A . . . . . August

International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . September 10 - 14

Alberta Feed Industry Conference
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . September 18

Western Nutrition Conference
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . September 19 - 20

National Outstanding Young Farmer Program
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 26 - 30

Northlands Farmfair
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 1 - 10

Annual Canadian Finals Rodeo
Northlands Coliseum
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 7 - 10

Seed Technology Workshop
Olds College
Olds, Alberta. . . . . November 12 - 24

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Canadian Western Agribition and Mexat ition
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 24 - 30

Christian Farmers' Federation — Annual Convention
Leduc, Alberta . . . . . November 30

Winter Meeting of American Society of Agricultural Engineers
Hyatt Regency
New Orleans
Louisiana, U.S.A . . . . . December 11 - 14

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FEB 15 1984

January 9, 1984

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January 9, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE'S TELEVISION PRODUCER RECEIVES TOP AWARD

Tom Dodd (left) television producer with Alberta Agriculture receives the Jack Cram Memorial Award, which symbolizes excellence in broadcast media, from Jim Romahn, president of the Canadian Farm Writers' Federation. The presentation was made in Ottawa in December, 1983.

Tom Dodd, television producer with Alberta Agriculture, recently received the Jack Cram Memorial Award for his film production on research, "Improving The Odds". Judged to be the most outstanding broadcast entry in the Canadian Farm Writers' Federation annual awards competition, it dealt with the importance of agricultural research to consumers.

Dodd, who joined the communications division in June 1982, also received a blue ribbon for the film "Arabians of the Wild Rose", and an Honorable Mention for "Transitions", (co-produced by Mike Douglas). "Transitions" was also nominated for a Golden Sheaf Award at the prestigious Yorkton Film Festival.

Red ribbons were awarded to Barry Harris for his production, "The New Breed"; to Century II Motion Pictures for their film that was produced for the department, "The Reason Why"; and to Pat Davidson for her press release package on Agriculture Week.

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SOUTHERN ALBERTA FIRMS BENEFIT FROM FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ASSISTANCE

Three southern Alberta firms will receive a toal of $677,888 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

Richardson Foods Ltd will receive $370,500 to help it to construct a new manufacturing plant when it moves to Claresholm from Langley, B.C. The plant will produce sundae toppings, dessert sauces, drink and milk shake syrups and salad dressings for Richardson Foods' customers in Western Canada. The plant is estimated to cost $1.3 million and is expected to create 25 jobs.

Tri Dan Confectionary Ltd will receive $47,366 to establish a Danish-type biscuit production plant at Okotoks. Called "Danish Kisses", the product consists of biscuit and meringue coated with chocolate. Almost all the ingredients used to make the biscuits will be purchased from Western Canadian suppliers. The new plant is estimated to cost approximately $197,000 and is expected to create six jobs.

E.W. Helfrich Holdings Ltd., which operates under the name of Strathmore Feed Services, will receive $260,022 to install equipment to produce a new line of feed supplements and to renovate its conveyor systems and storage bins. The feedmill currently produces a complete line of cattle, hog and poultry feeds, and sells livestock and veterinary supplies as well as steel grain bins. The renovations are estimated to cost $1.3 million and are expected to create three additional jobs.

Since the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement was signed in 1975, rural Alberta food processors have been offered more than $23 million in assistance. It is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Alberta Agriculture at 427-4287.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACADIA VALLEY FIRM RECEIVES ASSISTANCE UNDER NUTRITIVE PROCESSING AGREEMENT

Valley Meat Processors, located 18 miles southwest of Acadia Valley, will receive $49,228 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement to construct a meat processing plant.

The plant will provide a variety of services, which will include custom slaughtering, aging, cutting, wrapping, freezing and the processing of sausages from both beef and hog carcasses. And it will improve the level of service in the area because the only other meat processor is 65 miles away.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be about $150,000 and six jobs are expected to be created.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Alberta Agriculture at 427-4287.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GOOD BEEF HERD MANAGEMENT

by Ross Gould
Alberta Agriculture

The economic impact of improving the management of a beef cow herd can be startling!

Census statistics for Alberta suggest that from 75 to 77 calves are weaned in an average year for every 100 cows that were exposed to the bull, representing a 75 to 77 per cent calf crop. The average weaning weight for heifer and steer calves combined was reported to be about 450 pounds until the growthy European breeds and the larger types of British breeds became popular. And there are still many beef herds in Alberta with that kind of weaning performance, but there are also many well managed herds that produce as many as 90 weaned calves per 100 cows. The weaning weights in these herds average 550 pounds and more.

Dividing the annual beef herd costs by the average weaning weight and then dividing that figure by the weaning percentage in the herd will give the price per pound of calf that will be required to cover these costs. The most recent cost and return reports on cow-calf operations in Alberta show that total annual costs (including returns to investment in land and equipment) range from $450 to $600 per cow. Annual cash costs are reported to range from $300 to $450 per cow.

So let's examine what would happen if a farmer whose annual costs of $500 per cow raised his weaning percentage from 75 to 90 and his average weaning weight from 450 to 550 pounds.

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The Economic Impact Of Good Beef Herd Management (cont'd)

Before he improved his management, he would have needed $500 ÷ 450 ÷ 0.75 or $1.48 per pound of calf to cover all his costs out of the sale of these animals. However, under good management, he would need only $500 ÷ 550 ÷ 0.9 or $1.01 per pound to cover his costs.

If his land and most of his other assets were paid for, he could probably continue with his operation if he only covered his cash costs. Assuming cash costs of $350 per cow and poor management, he would need $350 ÷ 450 ÷ 0.75 or $1.04 per pound to cover these costs. However, under good management, he would need only $350 ÷ 550 ÷ 0.9 or 71¢ per pound to cover his cash costs.

From the point of view of a total profit or loss in the current market of about 80¢ per pound of calf, a good manager with a 100-cow herd that weaned 90 calves would get 9¢ per pound above his costs or 550 x 90 x $0.09 or a profit of $4,450, while the poor manager with a 75 per cent calf crop would lose 24¢ per pound or 450 x 75 x$0.24 which equals $8,100.

Hence the difference in the returns to the good manager and the poor manager would be $12,550. However, we must remember that there is no free lunch! Good management will cost money, but the extra feed required to maintain large crossbred cows, for example, and to buy good bulls would probably not amount to more than from $25 to $35 per cow. So even when the $3,500 is subtracted from the $12,550, the good manager will still be ahead by $9,050 or by just over $90 per cow.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANAGING ORPHAN PIGS

Since orphan pigs account for a large percentage of Alberta's average baby pig death loss of 25 per cent, it is worthwhile taking a little time and trouble to save them.

According to Alberta Agriculture's swine nutritionist, Sam Jaikaran, most orphan pigs can be saved by following a few simple management techniques. One of these is to divide them into three groups: those that are less than 24 hours old, those that are one to seven days old, and those that are more than seven days old.

Pigs that are less than 24 hours old should be placed on a foster sow that has just farrowed so that they will get that all important colostrum or first milk. If it is not possible to leave them on the foster sow until they are weaned, they can be put on a milk replacer after they have had their colostrum.

Mr. Jaikaran recommends keeping some frozen colostrum (taken from an older dairy cow when she freshens) on hand in case it is not possible to put orphan pigs on a foster mother. The frozen colostrum can be warmed up and fed whenever it is needed. However, it should always be warmed up slowly because too rapid heating will destroy its disease-fighting properties.

Pigs that are one to seven days old can be either placed on a foster sow or they can be started on a milk replacer and introduced to a dry pre-starter when they are three to four days old. The pre-starter should be high in milk products (20 per cent or higher) and it should be very palatable. Only a small amount of the pre-starter should be added to the milk replacer when the baby pigs are introduced to it. The amount should be gradually increased until the pigs are on dry feed by the time they are two weeks old. And the switching from one feed to another should always be done very slowly so that the change will not be too much of a shock to digestive systems of the young pigs.

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Managing Orphan Pigs (cont'd)

Pigs that are more than seven days old should be started on a milk replacer and a dry pre-starter. Again, the starter should be introduced gradually with the quantity being increased until the pigs are completely on dry feed by the time they are two to three weeks old. Because feed that is left in a feeder overnight absorbs odors from the barn, and may be rejected by the young pigs, it should be replaced by fresh feed every day.

Mr. Jaikaran says sow milk replacers can be obtained from feed mills and other farm supply centres. A good one should contain from 20 to 30 per cent fat, and it should be mixed and fed strictly according to the manufacturer's directions. Mr. Jaikaran also says that a fresh mixture should be prepared for each feeding, and that feeding troughs should be thoroughly cleaned after each feeding. If it is not possible to prepare a fresh mixture for each feeding, the excess mixture should be stored in a sterile container in the refrigerator. In other words, it should be treated in the same way as human baby food.

According to Mr. Jaikaran, a four-day old pig must be fed at least six times a day, but a 10-day old pig can be fed only three times a day. He stresses the importance of not overfeeding baby pigs, and he points out that they can be taught to take their milk from a trough when they are only two days old. They should be given water at this age through water nipples rather than in a trough because the nipples are more sanitary.

Finally, Mr. Jaikaran points out that a congenial environment will go a long way towards encouraging the survival of orphan pigs. Those that could not be put on a foster sow should either be kept singly or in as small a group as possible in a "nursery" where the temperature is about 30° C. The nursery should be well ventilated, draft-free, dry and clean and there should be enough trough and feeder space to allow all the baby pigs to drink or eat at the same time.

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January 9, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOWL CHOLERA IN TURKEYS

Fowl cholera (Avian pasteurellosis) in turkeys is caused by a bacterium, and it usually takes the form of a septicemic disease which is accompanied by high morbidity and high mortality rates.

According to Dr. J.A. Hanson, head of Alberta Agriculture's poultry diseases section, turkeys are much more susceptible than chickens to fowl cholera, which incidentally, bears no relationship to cholera in human beings. He says it is often impossible to identify the source of the infection, but that carrier turkeys, other farm livestock, wild birds and contaminated crates, feed bags, etc. have all been implicated in outbreaks of the disease. It is not a hatchery disease.

Although outbreaks of fowl cholera occur only sporadically in commercial turkey flocks in Alberta, Dr. Hanson recommends that all commercial producers vaccinate their birds when they are eight weeks old. This is because when an outbreak does occur it often causes very heavy losses before it can be brought under control.

Dr. Hanson also recommends the adoption of management practices that aim at a high standard of sanitation and at the elimination of all potential sources of infection. He also says that turkeys should be kept away from chickens.

Symptoms of fowl cholera in turkeys may include respiratory distress, but the disease is often so acute that death is the first observable sign. And it frequently produces pneumonia. Dr. Hanson says the mortality rate can be extremely high in a turkey flock that has contacted the disease if it is not treated with antibiotics, and that the success of this treatment depends, to a large extent, upon the drugs used and upon the promptness with which they are administered.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF A FARM MANAGEMENT TEAM

An accountant is an extremely important member of any farm management team.

Although accountants are most often used to prepare income tax returns, in the opinion of Ron Cuthbert of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, this should not be the only time they are used nor is it the most important time to use them. Mr. Cuthbert points out that an accountant can be the communication centre for financial information that is needed by the farm manager, his banker, lawyer and other advisors.

The second most commonly perceived role of an accountant is that of a bookkeeper. Even though the maintenance of a set of good records is vital to the operation and control of any business, it is still a specialized function and, as such, narrows the role of an accountant.

Mr. Cuthbert thinks that as a member of a farm management team, an accountant should have a much broader role. He should, for example, understand the integration of such functional areas of the business as accounting, production and marketing.

A competent accountant can help a farm manager to obtain the information he needs to compare actual production results from his various enterprises with those that were projected. He can help the manager to prepare financial statements for credit institutions and he can help him to prepare legal documents for an estate transfer and other business transactions. He can also help the manager to obtain the information he needs to project his future business operations and any changes he may wish to make in his production plans to better achieve his short and long-term goals.

Since an accountant understands the difference between information and data, he is in a position to provide the farm manager with facts that he can use for making decisions.

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An Important Member Of A Farm Management Team (cont'd)

Mr. Cuthbert says when an accountant has been fully informed on these decisions, he should be able to obtain the information required. Hence, pre-planning is extremely important if the information collected, and paid for, is to be information that is pertinent to the decisions that have to be made.

Pre-planning involves such things as preparing a net worth statement, an income statement and a cash flow statement plus any budgets and plans that are are likely to be required. These statements can be prepared on the basis of whatever financial information the farm manager gives to his accountant. However, if they are required for a credit application, for a business analysis or as part of the manager's own cost accounting system, they should be tailored for these specific situations. In other words, the categories in each statement should relate to the purpose for which they are intended within the general guidelines of the overall form.

Mr. Cuthbert stresses that a good accountant can no longer be considered to be a person who knows little more about financial matters than debits and credits. "If he is a well-rounded professional", says Mr. Cuthbert, "he should be able to gather and process the information that is required to answer specific questions, and he should be given a high position on the management team.

Further information on accounting assistance that is available in Alberta can be obtained from district agriculturists, from regional farm economists and from the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

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January 9, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTROL OF WINTER RODENT DAMAGE

Although fall is the recommended time for preventing winter rodent damage to nursery stock, ornamentals and fruit trees, there are things that can be done during the winter to control it.

Mice, rabbits and porcupines are the main causes of winter damage because they remain active throughout the cold weather and require a large amount of food to maintain their energy level.

The meadow mouse and the white-footed mouse are the two species of mouse that are most often responsible for damage to nursery stock as well as to ornamental, fruit and shelterbelt trees. Since the snow provides them with a protected environment, they remain active regardless of the temperature and other weather condtions. They girdle the trunks of young trees and shrubs, they eat the rootlets and they gnaw the bark on larger roots, any of which can seriously harm or kill the trees.

The snowshoe hare and the white-tailed Prairie hare periodically cause severe damage to both fruit and shelterbelt trees, and they sometimes cause serious losses of nursery stocks. Heavy losses usually coincide with years when the rabbit population is at its peak, and the damage results from the debarking of tree trunks and branches and from the clipping off of terminal and lateral shoots as the snow becomes deeper.

Porcupines usually attack the upper trunk and branches of larger trees, but they will also damage seedlings and other horticultural plants like raspberry canes. They may partially or completely debark or girdle the branches and trunks of both deciduous and coniferous trees.

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Control Of Winter Rodent Damage (cont'd)

R.C. Acorn, Alberta Agriculture's regional supervisor of vertebrate pest control in Barrhead, suggests the following control measures for people who did not take any precautions last fall against winter rodent damage and who are now experiencing problems.

He recommends trampling the snow down around and next to trees and shrubs that are being attacked by mice. He also says that in cases where the problem is severe, it may be a good idea to use bait stations made out of small tin cans that are open at one end. Put several ounces of an anticoagulant bait, available from most hardware and drug stores, in each can and squeeze the open end down so that it leaves an opening of about 1.5 cm. Then carefully place the cans on their sides in the area where the damage is occurring, and cover them with some straw to make them more attractive to the mice.

When rabbits are causing the damage, one way to deal with the problem is to harrass them over several days with one or more dogs. Persistent harrassment will often cause the rabbits to leave the area. An alternative would be to hunt them with a .22 calibre rifle, or a shot gun. A 0.177 calibre pellet gun is recommended for rabbit problems on acreages. When only a few rabbits are involved, they can be removed by using snares on their runways.

When porcupines are damaging trees or shrubs they can usually be found within a short distance of the damage. A tell-tale trail can be seen and followed to their den site. Den sites are often located under piles of brush, under old buildings or in other dark, secluded places. When found the animal can be humanely disposed of with a .22 calibre rifle. It is also possible to trap a porcupine at the damage site with a No.2 or No.3 leg-hold trap. The trap should be placed on the porcupine's trail and it should be properly secured to prevent a

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Control Of Winter Rodent Damage (cont'd)

trapped animal from escaping with the trap attached to its leg. Anyone who uses a trap should check it daily, preferably in the mornings. Also, he must obtain a resident trapping license or a damage permit from his local fish and wildlife office.

Mr. Acorn says it is much more efficient and humane to prevent winter rodent damage by taking the proper precautions in the fall than to have to control it when it is in progress.

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FEEDLOT MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

Animal health will be the focal point of this year's feedlot management seminar, which will be held in Ponoka on January 17.

Dr. Alvin Edwards, feedlot specialist at the College of Veterinary Medicine in Kansas, U.S.A. will talk about the prevention, control and treatment of animal diseases and the importance of health programs in feedlots. He will also discuss the bovine respiratory disease complex in calves (shipping fever, haemophilus, IBR and BVD).

Dr. A.P. Kelly of the Department of Herd Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon will give a presentation on animal health record keeping systems for the feedlot.

Dan McKinnon, a cow-calf feedlot operator near Airdrie, will discuss managing calves during the feedlot processing period, reducing stress and treatment problems.

Jens Larsen, ranch manager from Merrit, British Columbia, will outline the procedure involved in getting calves ready for the feedlot.

Stan Beacom of the federal research station in Melfort, Saskatchewan will speak on growth implants. He will outline how they were developed and how to place them in the animal. He will also discuss whether or not they are beneficial and give an overview of present research in this area.

The seminar registration fee is $20 per person or $30 for a husband and wife, which includes lunch. Anyone who would like to register should contact his or her local district agriculturist.

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DEADLINE FOR 1984 TREE PRUNING COURSE APPLICATIONS

March 1, 1984 is the deadline for receipt of applications for Alberta Agriculture's annual tree pruning courses, which will be held simultaneously at Brooks and Oliver (near Edmonton) on March 6 and 7.

Anyone who is planning to attend either course would be wise to get his or her application in as soon as possible because the number of applicants accepted will be limited again this year to 30 per course. However, if the courses are oversubscribed, as has been the case in the past, an attempt will be made to accommodate the extra people in another course that could be held at either of the two locations immediately after the scheduled courses.

Although the tree pruning courses are designed for people whose jobs involve trees, and who are self-employed in this type of work, they are open to anybody interested in tree maintenance and beautification.

Each course covers specific pruning techniques recommended for shade, ornamental and fruit trees and is arranged in such as way that participants have ample opportunity to practise what they learn in the classroom. The courses will also cover insect and disease control as they relate to pruning; tree structural growth; tree and shrub hardiness and tree varieties that are recommended for Alberta.

Applications forms can be obtained from the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3, (Telephone: 973-3351), or from the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO, (Telephone: 362-3391), and they should be returned to these places.

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January 9, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INSURANCE

"Insurance" is a publication that provides information and guidelines for an individual or for a family that is considering buying life, disability, property or automobile insurance.

It explains the types of policies and options that are available and gives some useful "shopping around" tips. It also contains worksheets to make the information relative to specific situations.

Jean Wilson, home management specialist at Alberta Agriculture's home economics laboratory in Edmonton, says financial security has gained new importance for families who are considering the future. And she points out that security to some families means being free of debt, while to others it means protection during old age or protection for dependants in case of death. Security in other situations might mean being able to meet emergency expenses that arise from sickness or an accident, or just being certain that one's assets are protected.

A combination of reasons are probably behind the concerns of most families over security, just as a combination of insurance policies are needed to help provide this security. Ms. Wilson strongly believes that adequate insurance coverage should be a consideration in every family's financial planning because well planned insurance protection can mean peace of mind and a sense of security. "It will not stop a disaster from striking", says Ms. Wilson, "but it will prevent it from causing financial ruin!"

Copies of "Insurance" (Homedex 1822-65), compiled by the home economics branch, can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
FEB 1 5 1984

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHAIRMAN OF ALBERTA DAIRY CONTROL BOARD APPOINTED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, has announced the appointment of Mike Dordevic to the position of chairman of the Alberta Dairy Control Board. He replaces Jim Gylander who retired at the end of 1983.

As chairman of this board, Mr. Dordevic will administer the Dairy Board Act with the main objective of ensuring a sufficient supply of milk and cream for Alberta. He will also be responsible for administering the federal/provincial Milk Market Sharing Plan.

Mr. Dordevic was born on a mixed farm in Yugoslavia and was a school teacher in that country before coming to Alberta in 1948. He spent his first few years here working on a farm in the Lethbridge area. From 1954 until 1956 he worked for a food wholesale distributor in Lethbridge. He spent the next 15 years as office manager and general manager of the Purity Dairy Coop in Lethbridge and Edmonton.

In 1972 Mr. Dordevic joined the Alberta Dairy Control Board as supervisor of the Milk Market Sharing Plan. Nine years later he became secretary-manager of the board and held that position until his present appointment.

He obtained a B. Ed. in Yugoslavia in 1942. In 1975 he obtained a Registered Industrial Accountant Certificate from the Society of Industrial Accountants in Edmonton and an Advanced Management Certificate the following year from the Banff School of Fine Arts.

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Chairman of Alberta Dairy Control Board Appointed (cont'd)

Mr. Dordevic is a member of the Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee and has served on a number of other committees that were working on the development of a national dairy policy.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR FARM ITC "DOUBLE-UP"

by Merle Good
Alberta Agriculture

Bringing in the New Year is usually a joyous occasion, but 1984 will not be the bearer of good tidings for some farm taxpayers. The bad news is related to Revenue Canada's proposed amendments and policy changes to the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) provision.

It appears from the fine print contained in the April 19, 1983 federal budget that Revenue Canada has successfully cancelled a very important tax strategy — the ITC "double-up". In the past this strategy has allowed farmers who use the five-year block averaging provision to claim their ITC in the year of averaging and to carry-forward the same credit allowance into the following year. Although the April budget has not yet been passed into law, all indications point to the draft legislation remaining as it is presented, which means that any amendments to the Income Tax Act will be retroactive to the dates contained in the budget.

The elimination of the "double-up" ITC strategy for 1983 and subsequent years comes as no surprise. Accountants have been using this loophole for their clients since 1975, with a watchful eye on each new budget. Hence, the reason for the concern is not the removal of an apparent flaw in the Income Tax Act, but rather Revenue Canada's way of handling the change for those who block averaged in the taxation years of 1980, 1981 and 1982. The following two examples will help to explain the situation.

In the first example, assume that Mr. Patterson decided to block average in 1983 and that his capital purchases for 1983 generated an ITC allowance of $7,000. During the four prior years, the ITC earned was $2,000 in 1979, $3,000 in 1980, $4,000 in 1981 and $6,000 in 1982. Mr. Patterson used all his credits when filing his returns except for $1,000 in 1982.

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The Beginning Of The End For Farm ITC "Double-Up" (cont'd)

Format Prior To Budget Change

		Averaging Period Preceding Years 1979	1980	1981	1982	Year of Averaging 1983	Total
1.	ITC Available	2,000	3,000	4,000	6,000	7,000	22,000
2.	ITC Claimed	2,000	3,000	4,000	5,000		14,000
3.	ITC Available in Year of Average	Line 1 minus Line 2				8,000	8,000
4.	ITC Available to be Carried Forward	Line 1 minus Line 2				8,000	8,000

Format After Budget Change

To eliminate the "double-up" strategy for 1983, and subsequent years, Revenue Canada simply added approximately three words to the proposed legislation in the April budget. The effect is that Line 4 in the above example (ITC Available to be Carried Forward) is now calculated as:

Line 1 minus (Line 2 and Line 3)

Mathematically, Line 1 or $22,000 — (Line 2 or $14,000 + Line 3 or $8,000) = Zero!

A new Election to Average Income (Form T2011) will be included in the 1983 Farmers' Guide and it will outline the calculations involved. Notice Line 18 on the form.

Although farmers can perhaps live with the removal of the "double-up" strategy, it will be very difficult for them to accept Revenue Canada's attempt to retroactively eliminate any "double-up" in those circumstances which came into effect as a result of block averaging in the 1980, 1981 and 1982 taxation years.

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The Beginning Of The End For Farm ITC "Double-Up" (cont'd)

The first indication of the change came when some farmers who had block averaged in 1980 received reassessments for their 1981 tax returns. Revenue Canada had disallowed a portion of their ITC carry-forward into 1981 from their 1980 block averaging period. The formula used by Revenue Canada is illustrated in the following example.

		Averaging Period Preceding Years				Year of Averaging	
		76	77	78	79	1980	Total
1.	ITC earned	0	3,000	4,000	6,000	7,000	20,000
2.	ITC Carried into Block	2,000					2,000
3.	ITC Claimed	2,000	3,000	4,000	5,000		14,000
4.	ITC Available in year of Average	Line 1 plus Line 2 minus Line 3				8,000	8,000
5.	ITC Available to be carried forward	Line 1 minus Line 3				6,000	6,000

As illustrated, the ITC available in 1980, or the year of averaging (line 4 in the above table) was $8,000, but only $6,000 (line 5) was available to be carried forward into 1981. Revenue Canada's policy change allows only credits earned in the block averaging period to be included in the carry-forward calculations. The end result is that any ITC claimed, but not earned in a five-year block averaging period, cannot be carried forward.

Referring to the above example, $2,000 of ITC was claimed in 1976, but this tax credit was earned in the years prior to the block averaging period and must, therefore, be subtracted from the allowed carry-forward to arrive at $6,000 instead of $8,000.

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The Beginning Of The End For Farm ITC "Double-Up" (cont'd)

Conclusion

The accounting profession is advising farmers who are being reassessed to file a notice of objection within 90 days of their reassessment and to formally appeal Revenue Canada's policy change on the "double-up" strategy. Our recommendation for those who block averaged in 1980, '81 or '82 is to get out their returns and analyze their positions. Professional guidance should be sought when needed because the consequences of a re-assessment could be quite substantial. Remember, if a portion of an ITC carry-forward is disallowed, the taxpayer will owe Revenue Canada dollar for dollar plus interest!

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January 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANOLA MEAL IN LIVESTOCK FEEDS

Canola meal is rapidly gaining acceptance in Western Canada as a source of high quality protein for livestock feeds. Up to now more canola meal has been fed to livestock in Eastern Canada despite the fact that most canola is grown on the Prairies.

The present competitive price of canola meal is one of the factors which is encouraging all livestock producers to use it to its maximum in dairy, swine and poultry feeds. The meal has long been a major component of beef cattle and sheep feeds.

Sam Jaikaran, swine nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture, points out that rapeseed breeding programs have resulted in the development of new rapeseed varieties, which are called canola instead of rapeseed. They contain less than 3 mg per gram of glucosinolates and less than 5 per cent of erucic acid. Mr. Jaikaran also points out that canola meal, which is the residue that is left when the oil has been extracted from the seed, has proved to be considerably superior to the old rapeseed meal. The latter contained a high level of glucosinolates.

Canola meal is free of virtually all the disadvantages that limited or prevented the use of rapeseed meal in animal feeds. And since today's crushers accept only canola varieties for processing, canola meal is the only meal now on the Canadian market. Rapeseed meal is no longer available.

According to Mr. Jaikaran, canola meal has been the most extensively studied source of protein for animal feeds in Canada over the last 10 years. He says information is available on every aspect of its feeding to all types of livestock, and that the Canola Council of Canada has developed many easy-to-read booklets and brochures for both the livestock and the feed industry. They can be obtained from any crushing plant and from most Alberta Agriculture offices.

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Canola Meal In Livestock Feeds (cont'd)

Mr. Jaikaran goes on to say that bulk canola meal is readily available from most crushing plants in the province as well as from some feedmills. Most of the crushing plants will sell the meal directly to farmers who can either pick it up at the plant or have it delivered to their farms. The bagged meal is available from feedmills only.

Feed manufacturers have been using canola meal in livestock feeds for many years with excellent results, according to Mr. Jaikaran. He says an increase in their use in swine and dairy rations is the latest trend. In fact, canola meal is the only protein supplement being used on some swine and dairy farms in Alberta. An example is University of Alberta's dairy herd, which receives canola meal as the only protein supplement in its base ration.

Alberta Agriculture's animal nutritionists provide free consultations on the use of canola meal in livestock feeds. They are located in Room 905, O.S. Longman Building, 6909-116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 4P2 (Telephone: 436-9150).

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January 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM DEBT CONSOLIDATION -- IS IT THE ANSWER FOR YOU?

At first glance debt consolidation, or the simple restructuring of loans, may seem to be the quickest way to ease a farm cash flow problem. However, it will work only if the problem was caused in the first place by a poor debt structure or by an unforseen disaster like a total crop failure. It will not correct problems caused by mismanagement.

The cash flow on many farms has been unduly strained in the last few years by fluctuating interest rates, unstable product prices, increasing operating costs and an increase in the complexities involved in managing the modern farm. In an attempt to solve such problems, many farmers have turned to debt consolidation. Some have been successful, while others have not.

Doug Barlund of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch advises anyone who is considering debt consolidation to examine his situation carefully before adopting this approach. He says a person who has taken out several loans to finance a line of equipment, for example, and who wants to combine them into one larger loan should be all right, providing he is a good manager. "However, he will be in trouble", says Mr. Barlund, "if he refinances his debts and then starts buying again". Mr. Barlund points out that if the real cause of the cash flow problem is poor management, debt consolidation will not help.

On the other hand debt consolidation is one of the alternatives that should be considered if a farm business has been profitable during the past year, but meeting current debt commitments has been a problem. Under these circumstances debt consolidation could be the answer, providing that the person considering it knows the income-producing capabilities of his business and providing he has the ability to manage additional credit expenditures as they become necessary.

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Farm Debt Consolidation — Is It The Answer For You? (cont'd)

Further information on debt consolidation, and a number of important questions that anyone who is considering it should ask himself, are contained in a publication entitled "Debt Consolidation — Is It the Answer for You?" (Agdex 832-4). It can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Farm Business Management Branch, P.O. Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 and by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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January 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALTERNATIVE CROPS SITUATION

Stronger contract prices for alternative crops, compared with those of last year, are forecast for the spring of 1984 because carryover stocks are expected to be negligible.

Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, Fred Boyce, reports that the acreage of most of the alternative crops grown in Western Canada was down in 1983 as a result of poor prices early in the season. The one exception was the mustard seed acreage, which increased by 36 per cent.

Yields from last year's alternative crops were also disappointing and contributed to the low output of nearly all these crops in Western Canada. A similar situation existed in the United States where a cutback in acreages and unfavorable weather resulted in much smaller crops.

Mr. Boyce says limited supplies of most of the alternative crops has caused prices to improve considerably from their low levels in early 1983. He also says that mustard and pulse crops, especially dry beans, have shown the best price improvements, and that grain corn and canary seed prices have also increased. However, buckwheat prices have dropped, reflecting the lack of export markets for this crop.

The above article is based on information that was available in December, 1983.

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January 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOIL CONSERVATION SEMINARS

"Soil Conservation - Providing for the Future" is the theme of four seminars that will be held at four locations in Alberta between early February and early March.

Following is a list of the location, topics, date and registration contact person for each of the seminars.

Location	Topics	Date	Registration contact person
Lethbridge (Sven Eriksen's)	Wind Erosion Minimum Tillage Soil Amendments Soil Micronutrients Irrigation Salinity	Feb. 2	Blair Shaw - 329-5124
Stettler (United Church)	Soil Amendments Wind Erosion Dryland Salinity Soil Organic Matter	Feb.15	Glen Werner - 742-4481
Barrhead (United Church)	Draining New Lands Crop Rotations Soil Acidity	Feb.28	Allan MacCauley - 674-8213
Fairview (Fairview College)	Water Erosion Surface Drainage Opening New Land Soil Organic Matter	Mar. 7	Garry Coy - 835-2291

The seminars are being sponsored by the Christian Farmers Federation (CFF) in cooperation with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and Alberta Agriculture. Dennis Haak of CFF, and one of the organizers, believes that many farmers do not perceive soil degradation as a serious problem because they have been able to maintain, and even increase, crop production with the use of fertilizers, pesticides and other "inputs". However, he points out that such problems as soil erosion, salinity and the loss of organic matter are reducing the natural productive capacity of many of Alberta's soils, and, thereby, making it more expensive to maintain production.

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Soil Conservation Seminars (cont'd)

Although the seminars are mainly designed for farm audiences, anyone who is interested in soil conservation is invited to attend. Detailed information on any of the four seminars can be obtained from John Hermans, head of the soil and water conservation section, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-5347).

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January 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA PRODUCTS FEATURED IN HAWAII

Five Sheraton hotels in Hawaii will feature Alberta beef and pork between January 23 and 28. The promotion is a breakthrough because it will be the first time a major hotel chain in Hawaii has featured Alberta meat.

Dave Rous of Alberta Agriculture's market development division is optimistic that this promotion will lead to another promotion involving all 13 Sheraton hotels in Hawaii and to regular business for Alberta suppliers.

The hotels which will offer Alberta beef and pork in January are the Sheraton Waikiki, Moana/Surfrider, Princess Kaiulani, the Sheraton Maui and the Sheraton Kauai.

From February 1 to 7 Alberta's agricultural trade with Hawaii will receive another boost when the Safeway Stores in Hawaii sponsor their third Canada Week. During that week they will feature Alberta beef, pork, processed meats and a variety of grocery products. The volume of Alberta products sold during Canada Week is expected to be double that of last year.

Mr. Rous expects both the hotel promotion and Canada Week to be popular with Albertans and other Canadians who are visiting Hawaii. "For the first time vacationing Albertans will be able to dine out and shop for the same high quality beef and pork they're accustomed to at home," he says. Canadians are the third largest group, after Americans and Japanese, to vacation in Hawaii.

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January 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILD RICE WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR LAC LA BICHE

The Northern Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association and Alberta Agriculture will be sponsoring a wild rice workshop at Lac La Biche on February 1.

It is designed for new growers and for anyone who is considering growing wild rice. And special attention will be given to managing and harvesting wild rice that is grown in lakes.

Dr. Peter Lee of Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, will be the main speaker. He is presently conducting research on wild rice that is grown in lakes and paddies, and he has had several years of experience in growing wild rice. Other speakers will include John Stonehocker, an experienced wild rice grower in both northern Alberta and Saskatchewan; Dan Lutz of Agriculture Canada; and John Keinholz, Lorraine Rae and Bob Park, all of Alberta Agriculture.

Following is a list of the topics that will be covered during the workshop.

Managing Wild Rice Stands in Lakes; Growing Wild Rice in Northeastern Alberta,; The Latest in Wild Rice Research; Agriculture Canada's Marketing Development Program; The Engineering Aspects of Wild Rice Production; Wild Rice Harvesting; Marketing Wild Rice; The Disposition of Lakes for Seeding; and Alberta Agriculture's services. The program will also include an update of the association's activities and a general discussion.

The workshop will be held in the Lac La Biche Jubilee Hall. The registration fee is $12 for members of the Northern Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association, which includes lunch and coffee, and $20 for non-members.

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Wild Rice Workshop Scheduled For Lac La Biche (cont'd)

The association would appreciate receiving registrations by January 28, and cheques should be made payable to the Northern Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association. They can be sent to Box 389, Lac La Biche, Alberta, T0A 2C0.

Further information on the workshop can be obtained from Harvey Yoder, district agriculturist at Lac La Biche. His telephone number is 623-5218.

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January 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CASTOR HOLDS CONFERENCE OF INTEREST TO FARMERS AND FARM FAMILIES

"The 80's – A Challenge for Change" is the theme the first annual conference that will be held in Castor on March 7.

Doug McRorie, vice-president of the Royal Bank's Agricultural Services will open the conference, which will be based on a select-a-session format. This means that participants will be able to attend three out of the six topics that will be featured.

The topics are:

"What's New" which will cover developments in electronics, crops, livestock and pesticides.

"Leasing Agreements" which will cover the elements of a lease, the terms and conditions, how to dissolve a lease and the legal obligations.

"Farm Management Tools" which will cover the techniques that can be used to facilitate better management decisions and to evaluate where a business is going.

"Home Gardening" which will cover practical gardening tips, new horticultural varieties, weed control and a host of other things that will improve the home gardener's skills.

"The Home Consumer Series" which will look at what can be done to conserve energy in the home.

"Beat the Clock" which will cover some of the forces that affect peoples lives and outline how they can be controlled.

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Castor Holds Conference Of Interest To Farmers And Farm Families (cont'd)

The conference will be held in the Castor Community Centre, and the registration fee, which includes lunch, will be $15 per person or $25 per farm couple. Those wishing to register in advance can do so by sending a cheque, made payable to the County of Paintearth, to Alberta Agriculture, P.O. Box 160, Coronation, Alberta, T0C 1C0.

More information on "The 80's – A Challenge for Change" can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district offices in Coronation, Sedgewick and Stettler.

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January 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW MEMBER FOR THE PLANNING SECRETARIAT

The chairman of Alberta Agriculture's planning secretariat, Norm Thomson, has announced the appointment of Les Lyster to the secretariat. He replaces Art Rendfleisch who retired.

Mr. Lyster was raised on a farm near Stettler and has a B. Sc. (agriculture) as well as a masters degree in agricultural economics, which he obtained from the University of Alberta in 1970 and 1978 respectively.

His work experience includes having been district agriculturist at Strathmore and Lethbridge, supervisor of farm records and analysis in Edmonton, regional farm management specialist in Drumheller, regional economist in Calgary and grain marketing analyst in Edmonton.

His most recent position, that of grain marketing analyst, combined with his other experience, fits him well for his future assignments in the areas of grain marketing policy development, grain income insurance development and feed grain marketing strategy as well as for Western Grain Transportation information duties.

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AGRI-NEWS

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January 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIRTH WEIGHT OF SIRE INFLUENCES CALVING PROBLEMS

Researchers at the University of Alberta have found that the birth weight of bulls has a significant effect upon the ease of calving scores of the heifers to which they are mated, and that the bull's own birth weight has a significant effect upon the birth weight of his calves.

According to information received by Ross Gould, beef cattle specialist with Alberta Agriculture, one group of bulls in the university study, which had an average birth weight of 88.5 pounds, sired calves that weighed 78 pounds at birth. These bulls had a calving ease score of 1.14. Calving ease was scored from 0 to 5 with 0 indicating a normal calving. Five was the most difficult and required caesarian surgery.

A second group of bulls, which had an average birth weight of 68.8 pounds, sired calves that weighed 72 pounds at birth. These bulls had a calving ease score of 0.55.

When reporting on the second part of the study, the researchers said that the weight of a heifer at calving time had the most important effect on the ease with which she calved. This was true even when the effects of the pelvic area and the heifer's frame and body condition had been taken into account.

However, the pelvic area did have some effect on the ease of calving score, but it may have been only a "threshold" effect. Fifty per cent of the heifers with a small pelvic area (less than 31.3 square inches) experienced difficult births, while only 25 per cent of

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Birth Weight Of Sire Influences Calving Problems (cont'd)

those that had a medium pelvic area (38.8 square inches) experienced difficulty. Even 21 per cent of the heifers which had a large pelvic area (more than 38.8 square inches) experienced calving difficulties. According to Mr. Gould, other researchers have reported similar findings.

More information on the University of Alberta study can be obtained from the researchers, Dr. R.T. Berg and Dr. M. Makarechian, or from Ross Gould, Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-5335).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES TO BE FORMED

by Dr. Moe Hussain
Pesticide Issues Coordinator, Alberta Agriculture

Agriculture Canada Minister, Eugene Whelan, recently announced that he would be creating a permanent consultative committee to hear broad views on pesticide matters and to make recommendations.

Mr. Whelan indicated that the actual structure of the committee is now being designed, that it will be made up of non-governmental people and that it will operate in an independent manner. It will listen to views from environmental, legal, toxicological and other interest groups on pesticide matters. Farmers are included in the other interest groups. Mr. Whelan said it is important to hear all points of view in order to arrive at the best balanced decision.

The idea of a consultative committee is not new. Two years ago Mr. Whelan established an ad hoc committee to investigate the potential health hazards of the fungicide captan. And New Brunswick has established three ad hoc committees over the years to review the health aspects of several pesticides used in forestry. However, because of the extremely high costs incurred to the province from the establishment of these committees and the public hearings that were involved, a suggestion was made that the federal government should establish a permanent committee. It appears that Mr. Whelan's announcement is in response to this suggestion.

The role of the committee should be exploited to its fullest by Canadian farmers. In the past, farmers have always stayed in the background and accepted the decisions on pesticides made by others. With the establishment of this committee, however, farmers now have a forum to express their views. For example, if farmers in Alberta, Saskatchewan and

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Consultative Committee On Pesticides To Be Formed (cont'd)

Manitoba would like to use certain herbicides but cannot do so because their registrations are being delayed, these concerns can be expressed to the consultative committee. Hence, farmer organizations throughout Canada should begin to pay more attention to pesticide matters, and they should be prepared to get involved.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS IN EWES

Late abortions, still births and weak lambs are the main signs of campylobacteriosis, formerly called vibriosis, in ewes.

Dr. Sue Crowe of Alberta Agriculture's regional veterinary laboratory in Airdrie says ewes that have not previously been exposed to campylobacteriosis can become infected by picking up the bacteria that causes the disease from contaminated feed and water and from their surroundings. For this reason they should be fed in bunks; not on the ground. Dr. Crowe explains that the bacteria pass into the animal's intestine where they penetrate the wall and enter the blood stream. From there they travel to the uterus and infect the placenta and the fetus.

Uterine discharges, aborted fetuses and fetal membranes are probably the main sources of infection. However, ewes may carry the bacteria in their gall bladders and shed them intermittently in their manure. Carrion-feeding birds like crows and magpies may also represent potential sources of infection.

Dr. Crowe advises anyone whose ewes are known to have had campylobacteriosis in the past to seriously consider vaccinating his ewe lambs and other replacement ewes. Ewe lambs should be vaccinated shortly before they are bred and again in 60 to 90 days, while ewes should be vaccinated every year during mid-pregnancy. Dr. Crowe says that since the presence of campylobacteriosis can often go unnoticed, the routine vaccination of a sheep flock is a good idea and can be looked upon as a cheap form of insurance.

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Campylobacteriosis in Ewes (cont'd)

The following table, in which the figures are based on a 100-ewe flock, a 150 per cent lamb crop, 20 per cent ewe lambs and an estimated market price of $60 per lamb, illustrates the value of yearly vaccination.

	Ewes	Ewe Lambs	Lambs Lost	Income Lost
Cost of vaccination	$56	$14		$ 70
5% abortion rate			7.5	450
10% abortion rate			15	900
25% abortion rate			37.5	2,250

In case of an outbreak of campylobacteriosis, Dr. Crowe says one injection of vibrio fetus bacterin, plus two daily injections of six to 10 mL. of penicillin-streptomycin have been found to give good results. She also says that ewes that have aborted should be removed from the flock and that the aborted fetuses and membranes should be burned.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE DEATHS FROM LOUSE INFESTATIONS

An early diagnosis of cattle lice and early treatment to correct the situation can prevent serious losses from both anaemia and death.

Dr. Ali Khan, pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, reports that 85 cattle deaths that occurred in central Alberta last winter could have been prevented by an early diagnosis of the problem and the implementation of the appropriate treatment. He says the veterinarian in the area confirmed that in each case the animals had suffered from anaemia, which had been brought on by improper feeding and/or stress caused by louse infestations.

Dr. Khan also reports that a number of cattle deaths that occurred in a feedlot last year were found to have resulted from an insufficient amount of pesticide having been used to control a louse infestation. In another case, 2 per cent of feedlot cattle, which had all been well fed, died. In this instance no louse control measures had been used, and the cattle were closely confined on slatted floors. The louse population had built up rapidly and spread throughout the cattle before the problem was diagnosed.

A number of cases of cows having become stuck in sloughs last spring were investiaged by a veterinarian in central Alberta. He found that the animals were often heavily infested with lice, were suffering from anaemia and were too weak to extract themselves from the mud.

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Dr. Khan says first calf heifers in dairy herds and replacement heifers require a special ration and special care. If they are undernourished and/or suffer from louse-induced anaemia, they may either die or abort their calves.

To avoid the types of situations cited above, cattlemen should check their cattle now for lice. Information on the prescribed treatment for louse control is available from district agriculturists, agricultural fieldmen, veterinarians, Dr. Khan (427-9051) or from a publication entitled "Control of Cattle Lice" (FS 420/651-2). It can be obtained by writing to the Publications Office, J. G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Cattle Deaths From House Infestations (cont'd)

Dr. Khan says first calf heifers in dairy herds and replacement heifers require a special ration and special care. If they are undernourished and/or suffer from louse-induced anaemia, they may either die or abort their calves.

To avoid the types of situations cited above, cattlemen should check their cattle now for lice. Information on the prescribed treatment for louse control is available from district agriculturists, agricultural fieldmen, veterinarians, Dr. Khan (427-9051) or from a publication entitled "Control of Cattle Lice" (FS 420/651-2). It can be obtained by writing to the Publications Office, J. G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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January 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1984 AGRO-ELECTRONIC SHOW

What is new in farm electronics? Who are the experts and what are they recommending? Where can one buy electronic equipment?

Anybody who is looking for answers to these question will be able to get them at the Agro-Electronic Show, which is scheduled to take place in the Altaplex Building on the Westerner Exposition Association Fair Grounds in Red Deer on April 13 and 14, 1984. It will feature more than 80 exhibitors of farm-applied electronic equipment including computers, environmental control systems, feeding systems, control and monitoring devices, communications technology, electronic training methods, household electronic systems and education in agro- electronics.

The purpose of the show is to enable industry, farmers and other agricultural people to share their knowledge and ideas in the field of electronics as it applies to agriculture. One of the critical factors to consider when adopting advanced technology is its integration into existing farm systems and its integration into a long-range farm plan. The following series of seminars and lectures have been designed to provide an overview of electronic systems in agriculture and to help farmers to choose and use electronic equipment as well as to upgrade their present equipment.

The topics to be covered include Field Equipment Control and Monitoring Systems; Livestock Production Systems; Environmental Control Systems; Materials Handling Systems; Record Management Systems; Decision Making Systems; Off-Farm Information Systems; and the Integration of Agro-Electronic Systems.

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1984 Agro-Electronic Show (cont'd)

The Agro-Electronic Show is being sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and the University of Alberta's department of extension. It is free and was attended last year by between 3,000 and 4,000 people.

Further information can be obtained from Dave Scott, Systems Engineer, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-1113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-2181).

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January 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANAGING WORKING CAPITAL

The ability of farmers to control their farm finances and to remain viable and productive is becoming increasingly important in today's economic climate.

Craig Edwards, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds, says that better control of working capital is essential for the survival of farmers with minimum resources. And that even those with adequate resources could benefit from a better understanding and a better control of their working capital.

Working capital is defined in accounting terms as current assets minus current liabilities. However, it is more important to a farmer or a businessman than it may sound. Mr. Edwards says the control of working capital is of the utmost importance to the survival of a farm business and that accounting methods have been developed to help managers understand, analyze, plan and control the use of their working capital. One of these is called the changes in financial position statement. It has been used by other industries for many years and is now considered to be a basic financial statement in the same way that an income statement or a balance sheet statement is considered to be basic. It is useful for analyzing what has happened in a business as well as for projecting future financial events.

Mr. Edwards points out that the changes in financial position statement summarizes the changes that have taken place between the first balance sheet at the beginning of the year and the last balance sheet at the end of the year and that it contains the changes that have been summarized in the income statement. It will provide details on changes which are

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Managing Working Capital (cont'd)

not clearly shown on the other basic financial statements, such as net changes in current assets and liabilities. And it will show changes that are not shown at all in the other statements such as large changes in non-current assets.

Further information on this subject is available in a publication, entitled "Managing Your Working Capital" (Agdex 818-18). It can be obtained from district agriculturists or by writing to Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SURVIVAL ON THE FAMILY FARM

Alberta Agriculture's Westlock district office has organized a safety seminar, entitled "Survival on the Family Farm", which will be held in Clyde on February 15.

The seminar has been designed to make farm families aware of the potential hazards both on the farm and in the farm home, and to show how they can be avoided.

Ken Andriashek of Alberta Agriculture will discuss machinery safety, accident prevention, the identification of farm fire hazards and emergency procedures.

Dr. Moe Hussain, also of Alberta Agriculture, and a representative from Dow Chemicals, will tackle the issue of farm pesticide safety, which is a very timely issue in light of the ever-increasing use of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides on the farm.

Linda Capjack, clothing and textile specialist with Alberta Agriculture, will present some new ideas on the apparel that should be worn by pesticide applicators.

The seminar will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Clyde Community Hall and conclude at 4:00 p.m. There will be a $5 registration fee per person, which will cover the noon luncheon.

Anyone who would like to register for "Survival on the Family Farm" or to obtain more information about it should contact Alberta Agriculture's Westlock district office by telephoning 349-4465.

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January 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILLS AND ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

Wills and Estate Planning is the topic that will be discussed at an all-day seminar in Innisfail on February 17.

Professor Bill Wallace of the University of Saskatchewan will be giving the seminar. He is known throughout Western Canada to be an expert on estate and tax planning and has a regular column in the publication, "Farm Light and Power". He has also made several presentations at the Managing Agriculture Technology for Profit series that has been held in Banff.

Since the seminar is a special presentation of the Innisfail Agricultural Production School, working in cooperation with Alberta Agriculture, the cost is only $5 per person, which will be used to cover the rental of the hall and the lunch. The seminar will be held in the Innisfail Legion Hall, commencing at 9:30 a.m. and concluding at 3:30 p.m.

Anyone who is planning to attend the seminar is asked to preregister with Karen Goad, district home economist, or Ted Darling, district agriculturist, at Alberta Agriculture's Innisfail district office. The telephone number is 227-6565.

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January 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPERVISOR OF SOIL MANAGEMENT APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's soils branch, A.W. Goettel, has announced the appointment of Jerome Lickacz to the position of supervisor of soil management.

Mr. Goettel says Mr. Lickacz's appointment is in keeping with the department's increasing emphasis on soil and land improvement to increase crop production, and that Mr. Lickacz's duties will include developing practical methods of improving crop production on solonetzic and acid soils. In addition to being responsible for applied research and extension, he will encourage cropping programs that do not include summerfallowing because excessive summerfallowing leads to a depletion of the organic matter in the soil and to an increase in both wind and water erosion.

Alberta has between six and eight million acres of solonetzic soils, which are characterized by a tough hardpan at varying depths and densities. A number of methods , such as deep plowing (24 inches), deep ripping and liming have been researched with erratic but encouraging results. However, the production of acid-tolerant crops on acid soils (those with a pH of 6 or less) and liming have shown consistently good results and these practices are now being recommended. In some parts of the province both solonetzic and acid soils have been found in the same field.

Mr. Lickacz grew up on a farm near Calmar and obtained a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1971. Prior to his present appointment he worked at Fairview College in Fairview, and he brings to his new position a considerable amount of practical farming experience.

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AGRI-NEWS

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SELECTING BREED TYPES FOR BEEF PRODUCTION

Interest in the way that the introduction of the new, faster-growing beef cattle breeds will affect the acceptability of the carcasses that are delivered to packing plants has been growing in the past few years.

Researchers at the University of Nebraska in the United States, who have just completed a study on this question, suggest that cattle breeders have two alternatives to choose from when combining genetic material with other production resources and market requirements. One is to identify a breed that is a good "fit" for their production requirements, and the other is to use the systematic crossing of breeds that will most effectively complement each other, and thereby provide the most profitable combination of characteristics. Selection within the breeding herd can be used in either alternative to improve the genetic values for specific traits.

According to information received by Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle specialist, Ross Gould, the Nebraska researchers analyzed the data obtained from 2,453 steers which were part of the research carried out at the Clay Centre Meat Animal Research Centre, and they found that, in general, the genetic components of higher growth rates led to an increase in lean meat relative to fat. This was in contrast to feed-induced increased growth rates which lead to the production of relatively more fat. Mr. Gould says the research data also suggest that the selection of cattle for higher growth rates results in later-maturing animals.

From their analysis of their data, the researchers concluded that genetic increases in the growth rate of beef cattle favor the production of lean tissue relative to fat, while feed-induced increases in growth rate favor a higher proportion of fat relative to lean meat. They found that genetic selection for rate of gain resulted in higher market weights, but less fat at a constant weight and an increase in the mature size of the cow herd because of the positive

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Selecting Breed Types For Beef Production (cont'd)

correlations for growth at all ages. They also found genetic selection for a decrease in external fat thickness can be expected to increase the weight and the percentage of retail product obtained without a change in the animals' market weight or in the mature size of the cow herd. Finally, they found that the equal selection for an increase in rate of gain and a reduction in fat thickness reduces the expected increase in market weight and the mature size of the animals. The net increase in market weight would be due to the retail product yield rather than to fat.

A copy of the report on the above research can be obtained from Ross Gould, Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-5335).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONVENTIONALLY-TREATED CANOLA SEED VERSUS COATED SEED

Results of a trial conducted in the Peace River region last summer seem to indicate that there is little or no difference in the performance of conventionally-treated canola seed and coated canola seed.

Canadian Seed Coaters of North Battleford, Saskatchewan, developed the coating process, which involves treating the seed with Vitavax R.S. and then coating it with a thin layer of lime and phosphate. The end product is a seed that is about 25 per cent larger than the normal seed and dark grey in color.

The trial was conducted joinly by Canadian Seed Coaters, NARP Processors of Sexsmith and Alberta Agriculture, and consisted of 10-acre plots of treated and coated seed that were located at 12 different sites in the Peace River region. The 12 farmers who participated in the trial used cultural and seeding practices that are normally used in the production of canola crops.

Mike Rudakewich, regional plant industry supervisor at Fairview, reports that there was almost unanimous agreement among the participating farmers that there was no observable difference in the performance of the conventionally-treated seed and the coated seed from the time the seedlings emerged until the crop was harvested. However, one farmer said the coated seed was a real boon to him because the handling of the dressings used in the conventional treating process made him ill for up to 10 days.

Mr. Rudakewich also says that two of the cooperating farmers grew check strips of untreated seed and that they were surprised at the nine bushel per acre yield loss they sustained compared with the yields from the treated seed and the coated seed.

Limited trials have been conducted in the past in an attempt to evaluate the merits of coated seed but until now the data have always been conflicting.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VETERINARIANS INVOLVED WITH FISH DISEASES

Alberta veterinarians are becoming increasingly involved with fish diseases that pertain tho fish farming.

One of these veterinarians is Dr. Pierre-Yves Daoust, who is a veterinary pathologist with Alberta Agriculture's animal health division. He says there are many ponds in this province which either are, or could be made, suitable for raising ranbow trout during the summer months because they abound in plant invertebrates which fish feed on. If three to four-inch trout are stocked at the correct density (approximately 200/acre) in the early spring, they can grow to marketable size, which is approximately half a pound, by the following fall without any supplemental feeding.

Dr. Daoust says the surface area of a pond, its depth, its exposure to wind and the quality of the water are all factors that influence its suitability for raising trout. He also says that certain types of algae which reach high bloom during the summer and suddenly die off can be a problem for fish farmers. When the bacterial decomposition of the algae uses up the oxygen in the pond, the fish die of suffocation, a condition known as summerkill.

Dr. Daoust reports that scientists at the Fresh Water Institute in Winnipeg, Manitoba, have found that it is possible to assess the chances of this condition occurring in large bodies of water, like a large slough, by measuring the amount of nitrogen that is present in the water in late winter. The nitrogen is used as a nutrient by the algae, and a high level of it in the water in late winter means that algal bloom is likely to occur the following summer.

Because Alberta Agriculture's animal health division's veterinarians and aquaculture biologists with Alberta Energy and Natural Resources' fish and wildlife division want to see whether the same relationship exists in small bodies of water, a nitrogen analysis of water taken from ponds which are going to be stocked with rainbow trout this spring is being offered by the Alberta Veterinary Laboratory in Edmonton during February and early March.

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Veterinarians Involved With Fish Diseases (cont'd)

Dr. Daoust says about seven ounces of water are required for an analysis. It can be collected in either a plastic or glass jar and it should be sent, within 24 hours of having been collected, to any of Alberta Agriculture's veterinary laboratories. The person who submits the sample will receive a small questionnaire which has been designed to compare the physical parameters of the pond with its level of nitrogen and to provide information on the occurrence of algal bloom in the summer and the number of fish harvested in the fall.

Booklets, factsheets and a newsletter that contains information on the factors that influence the suitability of a pound for raising rainbow trout can be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Division, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources, 9945-108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2G6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM CHILDREN'S FATALITY RATE DECLINES SIGNIFICANTLY

The accident fatality rate for farm children in Alberta declined to one last year from an all-time high in 1981 of 16!

The manager of Alberta Agriculture's Farm Safety Program, Solomon Kyeremanteng, believes the dramatic drop in child fatalities could be connected with the increasing popularity of the Farm Safety Program's rural school program and the involvement of such farm women's groups as the Alberta women's institutes and the Alberta Women of Unifarm. They have been using the school program to promote safety awareness on the farm.

The rural school program is based on an annual competition, which involves children in grades 1 to 6. They are encouraged to submit pictures and essays that they have drawn or written, and which depict either a safe or an unsafe situation on their own farms. The winning pictures and essays are then reproduced in a work book, and this work book is distributed to most of the children in Alberta's rural schools. According to Mr. Kyeremanteng, about 50,000 copies were distributed last year, but the demand outstripped the supply by about 4,000.

He says the accident fatality level of the overall farming population dropped last year to 23 from an average of 28 for the years 1976-1982. However, he feels that the decline should have been greater, and he is disturbed by the fact that the average age of accident victims increased last year to 50 from 30 for the previous years. He believes this shift could have been caused by farmers coming out of retirement to help their children in these hard economic times.

However, Mr. Kyeremanteng is optimistic that 1984 will see an improvement in the overall farm fatality rate as a result of the help his safety program is receiving from volunteer farm organizations in the province.

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January 30, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN ALFALFA SEED SCHOOL HELD IN ALBERTA

Eleven speakers from various locations in Western Canada and the northwestern United States presented papers on alfalfa seed and forage production and on leafcutter bee management at the third annual Canadian Alfalfa Seed School, which was held in Calgary recently.

The two-day school, which was hosted by the Alberta Alfalfa Seed Producers Association, brought together alfalfa producers, seed trade representatives, researchers and agrologists to hear presentations on the alfalfa forage, the alfalfa seed and the leafcutter bee industries in Western Canada and the northwestern United States.

The papers dealt with the future needs of the forage alfalfa industry, breeding verticillium wilt resistant alfalfa varieties; the impact of verticillium wilt on the alfalfa hay industry; the transmission, treatment and prevention of verticillium wilt; the alfalfa seed market situation in the United States; the leafcutter chalkbrood situation in Montana; leafcutter bee management; the 1983 Canadian leafcutter bee chalkbrood survey; the changes that have taken place at the Canadian Cocoon Testing Center in Brooks and the control of lygus, an insect that feeds on alfalfa and alfalfa seed, in the Peace River region.

There were 17 commercial displays at the school, which depicted the services and products that are available to the alfalfa industry in Western Canada.

Bob Park, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of special crops, who attended the school, points out that alfalfa is Western Canada's most important forage crop, and that six to seven million acres of alfalfa hay are grown in Canada each year. Another 11 million acres are used for grazing.

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Canadian Alfalfa Seed School Held In Alberta (cont'd)

"This means", says Mr. Park, "that approximately eight to 10 million pounds of alfalfa seed is required each year by Canada's forage industry. The majority of this seed is produced in the three Prairie provinces, and its production is accomplished exclusively through the use of leafcutter bees to perform the required pollination."

Last year 32,421 acres of land in Canada were used to produce pedigreed alfalfa seed, and more than 43 per cent of this land was in Alberta, nearly 36 per cent was in Saskatchewan, just over 20 per cent was in Manitoba and only .04 per cent was in Ontario.

Although Canada's alfalfa seed production is approaching the self-sufficiency level, a substantially larger acreage will be needed to meet the increasing demand for this crop as more unimproved land is brought into production for both hay and pasture.

Further information on alfalfa forage and seed production in Alberta can be obtained from Bob Park, Supervisor of Special Crops, Alberta Agriculture, Bag Service No.47, Lacombe, Alberta, TOC 1SO (Telephone: 423-4214).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"A GUIDE TO PHYSICAL RECORDS FOR FARMERS"

by George Maicher
Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture

Farmers need all the facts and figures they can collect to improve their decision making efficiency and to reduce their production costs. How successful a manager will be in adjusting his operation in the years ahead will depend, to a large extent, upon the quality of his management.

Management has been referred to as the science and art of adjusting. Progressive farmers, who want to see their businesses prosper and grow, continuously adjust their operations to reflect changing conditions. The past few years have seen a series of major events, such as actual and threatened grain embargos, the United States PIK Program, manifold increases in energy prices, high interest rates and other inflationary pressures, influencing a farmer's life and requiring constant adjustments in his operation. The years ahead will most likely also bring their share of surprises. To manage successfully, a farmer has to know his operation and he has to keep a variety of records to know the strong and weak points of his enterprises.

Farmers usually make widespread use of rules of thumb and average or representative data when working on their production plans. They often rely on production guidelines that someone else has deemed average. Even though many of these guidelines have been carefully selected from on-farm situations, farmers should still evaluate their use carefully.

Average, group, and consensus research data provide a level of performance against which a farmer can compare his own performance or set a goal that he would like to reach or surpass in a given amount of time. Often these data are used to estimate or calculate the cost of producing such things as a bushel of barley or a weaner pig. For somebody who is considering a new enterprise or who is starting to produce new goods, these data are quite

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A Guide To Physical Records For Farmers (cont'd)

useful. However relying on ready-made criteria can lead to management mistakes in established enterprises.

Each farm business is unique and has its own characteristic conditions that affect the performance of its crop and livestock production, which, in turn, will reflect the overall profitability of the farm. Hence, it is often less than adequate to rely on "average" data or "good" guesses when managing an operation. There is no real substitute for knowing the actual cost of production and profitability of individual enterprises. This means financial, as well as physical, records have to be kept and analyzed.

Many factors influence such things as labor use, machinery costs per tilled acre and feed costs per livestock product produced. The specific crops grown; the extent of summerfallowing; the production practices followed (for example, substituting chemicals for mechanized tillage); and the amount of reseeding, if necessary, are all factors which will affect labor use. And how well a farm's machinery complement fits the tilled acreage will influence the cost of raising a crop. Livestock producers have similar standards against which to measure their performance. For example:

- non-feed costs per unit of livestock production sold
- livestock returns per $100 of feed consumed

As both measures deal with the cost structure of the livestock enterprise, knowledge of variations in them is essential for realizing a profit from raising livestock or reducing losses during adverse times. Therefore, for sound and efficient management, production records are a valuable tool in a successful farming operation; but a tool that is often not used to its full potential.

Production records give the physical performance of crop and livestock production. The number of details recorded should be in proportion to their intended use. There is considerable time and effort involved in keeping accurate records, and, as with many other

A Guide To Physical Records For Farmers (cont'd)

chores on a farm, additional effort should be put into keeping them only as long as the expected benefits outweigh the costs in time or money of producing the information.

Records that are worth the most are those that are used the most. A farmer can get a considerable amount of information relating to production as well as to the overall productivity of his livestock and crop production by consulting his inventory and his income and expense accounts if these have been kept in sufficient detail.

The key to the success of any good record system is the daily recording of all essential information. This daily recording should be in the form of a documentation of the important things that happened that day. And it should be recorded in a format that allows for rapid and easy summarization at frequent intervals.

Therefore, a farm manager must tailor his record keeping system to his own particular needs and circumstances so that it is as simple as possible, but still satisfies all his information requirements. Such a system will allow him or a professional to carry out an accurate farm business analysis of the records. The analysis will enable him to gain valuable insights into his business. Without it, his record function would be little more than accounting for tax purposes.

In the final analysis, a farmer must know the cost structure of his farming operation if he is to make sound business decisions.

An Alberta Agriculture publication entitled "A Guide To Physical Record Keeping Systems For Alberta Farmers", (Agdex 818-5), discusses a variety of record keeping systems which are currently available for recording physical data from many farm enterprises. Copies of the publication are available from district agriculturists, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta TOM 1PO and by writing to the Publications Office, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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January 30, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALF SURVIVAL SEMINARS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY

Alberta Agriculture will hold a series of seminars in various locations in February on calf survival. They are being held in conjunction with the Animal Health Home Study Course.

The feature speaker at each seminar, Dr. Eugene Janzen of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, will discuss his experience as a private practitioner as well as his experience at the Douglas Lake Cattle Ranch in British Columbia and at the College of Veterinary Medicine. He will talk about calving and its problems and nutrition from the point of view of its effect on calving difficulties and calf survival.

Dr. Terry Church, head of Alberta Agriculture's preventive medicine branch, will outline what is happening in the diagnostic laboratories in the province, and the new products and techniques that are now available to handle such problems as scours, virus pneumonia, parasites and pink eye.

Dr. Neil Palechek, also of the preventive medicine branch, will give some pointers on vaccines to help cattlemen get better immunity from some of the products they are using, and he will show a film on vaccination techniques.

Following is a list of the places and dates on which the seminars will be held.

February 9	—	Vermilion
February 10	—	St. Paul
February 13	—	Stettler
February 14	—	Evergreen (Rocky Mountain House)
February 15	—	Camrose

Further information on the seminars can be obtained from local district agriculturists.

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January 30, 1984

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DIRECTOR OF IRRIGATION AND CONSERVATION DIVISION APPOINTED

Dr. A.O. Olson, Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister responsible for Research and Resource Development, has announced the appointment of John G. Calpas to the position of director of the department's irrigation and conservation division.

Mr. Calpas succeeds Ron Francis, who is retiring after 37 years of service with the department in the area of irrigation.

In his previous position as director of extension, Mr. Calpas headed Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist services for 11 years. In assuming his new position, he becomes responsible for the management and administration of the farm irrigation services branch, the drainage branch, and the conservation and development branch as well as for the division's overall provincial soil and water conservation programs.

The role of the irrigation and conservation division is to provide Alberta farmers with irrigation programs and services, including on-farm soil and water management. The division also works with other government departments and agencies in the areas of irrigation development, conservation and on-farm management practices.

Mr. Calpas will be located at the Agricultural Centre in Lethbridge. His appointment, which becomes effective on February 1, marks Mr. Calpas' return to southern Alberta. He first joined Alberta Agriculture as a district agriculturist at Taber in 1956, and remained in that capacity until 1969 when he was appointed regional director at Lethbridge. He moved to Edmonton when he was appointed director of extension in 1972.

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Director of Irrigation And Conservation Division Appointed (cont'd)

Mr. Calpas, who is a native of Tilley, Alberta, has an extensive background in farm irrigation, plus a wide range of agricultural and departmental managerial experience. He is a graduate of the University of Alberta (B.Sc. Agriculture, 1956) and holds a Master of Education degree from the University of California.

He and his wife have five sons. The three eldest are currently attending the University of Alberta.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPERVISOR OF VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch, Keith Price, has announced the appointment of Michael J. Dorrance to the position of supervisor of vertebrate pest control.

Mr. Dorrance will be located in Edmonton and will provide information and training to farmers and ranchers which is aimed at preventing or reducing wildlife depredation of agricultural crops and livestock. He will also provide information to the news media so that the general public is made aware of the problems that wildlife can cause in agriculture. Coyote control in agricultural areas, the suppression of rabies in skunks and the maintenance of a rat-free province are the main programs for which Mr. Dorrance will be responsible.

He grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin, U.S.A., and graduated from Colorado State University in Colorado with a B.Sc. and an M.Sc in 1963 and 1965 respectively. His area of specialization was wildlife management. In 1973 he obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Dorrance started work with Alberta Agriculture's plant industry laboratory as head of the problem wildlife section in 1974, which was transferred to the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville in 1979. He has spent the last nine years conducting research on wildlife species that conflict with agricultural interests. They included coyote predation of livestock, black bear depredation of beeyards and pocket gopher damage on hayland.

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DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO FORT VERMILION

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Catherine Wahl to the position of district home economist for the Fort Vermilion area.

Ms. Wahl was born and raised in Calgary and graduated from the University of Alberta with B.Sc. (home economics) in 1982, having majored in food and nutrition.

She took her district home economist training in the Claresholm office in 1982, and in 1983 she filled in for the district home economist in Medicine Hat who was on educational leave.

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AGRI-NEWS

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ALBERTA AGRICULTURE'S TRADE POLICY

by Dr. Joe Rosario
Agricultural Economics Advisor, Alberta Agriculture

Alberta Agriculture has begun to collate information and data on the various trade barriers that are having an unfavorable impact on the province's agricultural industry.

This preparatory work is aimed at a new round of multilateral trade negotiations that are expected to take place in the mid-1980's. And work in the area of the various problems associated with world agricultural trade is currently underway in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Agricultural Trade Committee that was set up during the November 1979 GATT Ministerial Conference in Geneva.

As it did in the Tokyo round of trade negotiations, Alberta Agriculture will point out to the federal government the restrictive trade measures that are adversely affecting the province's exports to other countries.

The multilateral attempt to stem protectionist practices and to further liberalize trade in agricultural products has been made all the more urgent in view of the mounting tensions that have arisen between the major agricultural trading nations of the world.

These tensions in the world trade of agricultural products is the result of both fundamental supply/demand imbalances and deliberate policy measures that have been implemented by various national governments.

Grain surpluses, which have resulted from sharp production increases in recent years, accompanied by many factors which have adversely affected imports, have encouraged the proliferation of subsidies in a variety of forms.

On the policy front, domestic farm policies are putting pressure on imports as is the case with the European Community. These same restricted import policies are also being followed by a number of importing countries, including Japan. And they have led to major confrontations on both the bilateral and the multilateral fronts.

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Alberta Agriculture's Trade Policy (cont'd)

Bilateral discussions between the United States and the European Community, which have been carried out in an attempt to come to an understanding on policies that have had an impact on trade during the past year, have, unfortunately, failed to produce results.

Alberta Agriculture played a leading role among Canada's provinces in influencing the federal government during the Tokyo round of negotiations, and the province's agricultural industry benefitted from the liberalization of trade that resulted from the negotiations. However, we still have a long way to go before we obtain full access for our agricultural products on world markets.

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1984 CATTLE PRICE OUTLOOK

Tight supplies of fed cattle in the first quarter of this year are expected to keep Alberta and Canadian prices relatively strong, but further price strength in the second quarter will be moderated by a large supply of U.S. produced cattle.

Gordon Herrington, livestock market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, reports that slaughter cattle prices are expected to strengthen to the $80 per hundredweight level for A1 and A2 steers in Calgary by the end of the first quarter. After that he expects price advances to be limited, by good supplies of American beef on the North American market, to the $84-$85 range.

Post-spring and early summer prices are expected to drop back to the upper $70 per hundredweight range and to rally again late in the third quarter. However, this rally is likely to be followed by a downward price movement which should continue into the fourth quarter.

Mr. Herrington also expects steer-heifer discounts to be very narrow except during May and June. And cattle herd replacement requirements are expected to further reduce the availability of slaughter heifers.

Feeder cattle prices should follow slaughter cattle price changes with the demand being stronger in the second and third quarters of 1984 relative to the demand during the same period in 1983. Given a reasonable crop season and the absence of any favorable American acreage reduction programs, feed prices are expected to decline from mid-1984 onwards, which would strengthen the demand for feeder cattle.

Mr. Herrington points out that stronger feeder prices in late 1983 and 1984 should generate further price strength in the breeding cow and replacement markets as well as continue to encourage the retention of cows, which is already a feature of Western Canadian beef production.

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1984 Cattle Price Outlook (cont'd)

However, Mr. Herrington does not expect slaughter cow prices to be significantly higher in 1984 than they were in 1983 because of an increase in American cow slaughter. Also, the availability of pork and poultry, particularly during the first half of the year, is expected to have a moderating influence on cow prices.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of January, 1984.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALF SCOURS – WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

Although information on preventative measures to control calf scours is often greatly overshadowed by the advertisers of products that are claimed to control this condition, management techniques aimed at preventing serious outbreaks still produce the highest cost-effort-benefit returns.

Proper management, according to Alberta Agriculture's veterinary pathologist, Dr. B.B. Morden, involves two basic requirements. First, the cattleman must be able to recognize a potentially dangerous situation, and secondly, he must be able to implement satisfactory adjustments in his management to minimize or correct the situation before an outbreak of scours occurs.

"Remember", says Dr. Morden, "crowding is nature's way of controlling populations. It allows for a buildup of pressure from infection; it decreases the transmission distance between the source of infection and the other animals; and it increases social stress."

To be in the best position to avoid an outbreak of calf scours, cattlemen should be able to answer "yes" to the following questions.

- Is the herd receiving a good winter ration?
- Are the cows and heifers being wintered in separate areas?
- Is the calving area separate from the wintering area and does it have sufficient space, shelter and good drainage? Ideally, pregnant cows should be moved into the calving area a couple of days before they are due to calve, and they should be moved into the nursing area as soon as they have calved.
- Is the colostrum intake of the calves of sufficient volume (minimum 5% of bodyweight) and is it being received as soon as possible after birth to allow optimal antibody absorption prior to the calves' exposure to infectious agents?

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Calf Scours -- What Is The Answer? (cont'd)

- Is there a separate, clean, sheltered nursing area (s) into which newborn calves can be moved immediately after they have had their first milk (colostrum)?
- Is there a separate area for weak calves?
- Are there isolation pens available for sick animals?
- Is there a calf identification system?
- Will the snow be removed from the calving and nursing areas before the cows start to calve?

Dr. Morden says the above questions are among those that every cattleman should be asking himself. As with any management principles, they must be specifically tailored to each situation.

Dr. Morden also says veterinarians are in a good position to help cattlemen improve their management techniques, and because they are familiar with the various management practices in their areas, they can pass along beneficial information from one person to another.

"Preventative management techniques", says Dr. Morden, "will never completely eliminate calf scours, but they will certainly reduce the incidence and severity of this condition as has already been proved on farms which use them. However, there will still be individual cases that will require intensive veterinary treatment".

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FEEDING BEEF COWS FOR OPTIMUM PRODUCTION

Number of calves weaned per 100 cows and the weaning weights of the calves are the two factors that have the greatest impact on beef cow production, and both are strongly influenced by nutrition.

Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle specialist, Ross Gould, reports that Dr. J.N. Wiltbank of Brigham Young University in the United States highlighted research that has been carried out in this area over the past two decades at a recent symposium on the management of food-producing animals. A few of the main points of Dr. Wiltbank's paper are listed below:

The most profitable cows in a beef herd conceive during their first service. Dr. Wiltbank reported four studies which showed that a first-service conception rate appears to be reduced by 25 to 30 percentage points when the post-calving diet is low in energy. Restriction of energy intake in pre-calving diets reduced the first service conception rate by from two to 10 percentage points.

The body condition of a cow affects the time she requires to return to heat and to conceive. Heat is delayed in cows that are thin when they calve, and in one trial only 42 per cent of the thin cows had been in heat within a 60-day period of having calved. By contrast, 61 per cent of the cows that were in moderate condition and 91 per cent of the cows that were in good condition came into heat within the 60-day period. Another study showed that less than 30 per cent of thin cows conceived after a 60 to 70-day breeding season compared with 51 per cent of borderline cows and 78 per cent of cows that were in moderately good condition.

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Feeding Beef Cows For Optimum Production (cont'd)

Another study showed that heifers whose winter rations had been supplemented with either rumensin or extra grain came into heat 25 to 34 days earlier than those that had received no supplementation, and that they weighed about 160 pounds more than the control group at the start of the breeding season.

In six studies which recorded calving problems in heifers fed different energy levels, only one showed that calving difficulties were reduced by restricting the feed intake before the animals calved. In one study, where a group of heifers were fed a very high level of energy, calf birth weights were no higher than those in the other groups, but calf survival dropped 50 per cent because most of the calves were presented backwards and fat in the heifers' pelvic areas obstructed normal births.

One study showed that providing cows on pasture with grain in a drought year resulted in an extra 15 pounds per calf weaned and nine more calves the following year in a 100-cow herd. However, feed costs were not reported in this study. The same study also showed that grain supplementation did not improve weaning weights or the following year's calf crop in a year when the rainfall was average. It was found that young cows generally show a greater response to grain supplementation under average pasture conditions that cows of five years or older.

Dr. Wiltbank concluded his paper by pointing out that thin cows need to gain 260 pounds to be in the proper condition for calving. He also pointed out that if this gain was made over a period of 200 days, it would represent a gain of only 1.6 pounds per day, which can be achieved with most wintering diets. If, on the other hand, a cow stays thin until her last 90 days of pregnancy, she must gain nearly three pounds per day, which means she must

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Feeding Beef Cows For Optimum Production (cont'd)

be fed a high energy diet and the best quality forage. He suggested that cows on poor pasture be weaned early to allow them to recover their condition before winter, thereby avoiding the need for an expensive winter feeding program.

A copy of Dr. Wiltbank's paper, which covered many other points related to feeding beef cows for optimum production, can be obtained from Ross Gould, Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-5335).

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1983 CUSTOM RATES FOR LIVESTOCK SERVICES

Survey results on 1983 livestock services custom rates have been released by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and the farm business management branch. The survey was conducted in November.

The following tables contain a summary of the results.

Custom Fencing

Kind	Range 1982	Range 1983
4 Wires (labor, equipment and materials)	$0.57-$1.25/ft	$1.40-$1.50/ft
Fence Removal	$275-$450/mile	$350-$1500/mile
Post-Pounding	$25-$55/hr	$50/hr

Grain Processing

Processing	Most Common 1982	Range 1983	Most Common 1983
Grinding	$10-$12/Tonne	$6-$22/tonne	$9-$13/tonne
Rolling	$10-$12/Tonne	$6-$22/tonne	$9-$11/tonne
Pelletting	–	$32/tonne*	–

*One Report

Livestock Hauling

Miles	Possum Belly Liner	Straightliner	Body Truck
0-50 miles	$103-$130/load	$85+ /load	$90/load*
50-100 miles	$140-$300/load	$195+ /load	$2/loaded-mile
100-200 miles	$260-$550/load	$285-$375/load	
200+ miles	$2.50-$2.75/loaded-mile		

*One Report

- (cont'd) -

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1983 Custom Rates For Livestock Services (cont'd)

Custom Corral Cleaning

Type of Equipment	Range
Loader, 2 Spreaders, 2-3 Operators	$90-$160/hr
Loader, 1 Spreader, 1 Operator	$40-$65/hr
1-2 Truck-Mount Spreaders with Operator	$70-$90/hr

Gerd Andres of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch says the 1983 survey data were obtained by contacting custom operators and that the information represents actual charges. He stresses, however, that varying conditions and circumstances can significantly affect the custom rates that are charged for livestock services.

Detailed information on rates charged by all custom operators in 1983 will be available in a publication entitled "Custom Rates Annual Summary - 1983" (Agdex 825-9). It and an up-dated version of "Farm Machinery Costs As A Guide To Custom Rates" (Agdex 825-4), designed to help farmers calculate their individual machinery costs, will be released by the farm business management branch in April of this year.

In the meantime further information on 1983 custom rates can be obtained from district agriculturists, Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4019) or the farm business management branch in Olds (556-4240).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACCENT '84 – FARM MANAGEMENT OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

Canadian wheat exports continue to be high, but in view of the country's record crop and the competitive world market, will farm stocks be drawn down to an acceptable level by the end of the crop year? What alternative crops offer the best prospects? Last summer's drought in the United States helped to raise feed grain and oilseed prices, but what will prices be like this fall? How is the coming American presidential election likely to affect U.S. farm policy? And how will it affect Canada?

These are some of the issues that will be discussed by top Canadian and American speakers at Accent '84, which is a farm manager's outlook conference on wheat, feed grains, oilseeds and special crops. Accent '84 will be held at the Calgary Convention Centre in Calgary on March 13 and 14.

Following is a list of the topics and speakers.

- World Weather and Crops Summary – What is on the Horizon for 1984-85? . . . Gail Martell, E.F. Hutton and Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A.
- Special Crops – The Situation and Outlook for Alberta Producers . . . Ron Butterley, Allstate Grain Company Ltd., Surrey, B.C.
- World Wheat Situation and Price Outlook 1984-85 . . . Andrew B. Bellingham, World Perspectives Inc., Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
- Canadian Wheat Situation and Outlook . . . Dr. Brian T. Oleson, The Canadian Wheat Board, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- U.S. Farm Policy – Influences and Repercussions in the Canadian and World Grain Markets . . . Dr. John F. Marten, Farm Journal Magazine, West Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A.
- World Feed Grain Situation and Price Outlook 1984-85 . . . Mike Hinebaugh, ContiCommodity Services Ltd., Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

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Accent '84 – Farm Management OutlookConference (cont'd)

- Canadian Feed Grain Situation and Price Outlook 1984-85 . . . Gary Haley, Palliser Grain Co. Ltd., Calgary, Alberta.
- World Oilseed Situation and Price Outlook 1984-85 . . . Dale Gustafson, Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc., Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.
- Canadian Canola Situation and Price Outlook 1984-85 . . . George Powell, Continental Grain Co. (Canada) Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.

The registration fee of $60 will cover the conference sessions, the banquet and the luncheon. The cost of receiving the proceedings only, which will be mailed immediately following the conference, will be $15.

Since registration is limited to 350, anyone who wishes to attend must register with Alberta Agriculture before March 2. A special accommodation rate has been arranged at the Four Seasons Hotel in Calgary for conference delegates.

Additional information on Accent '84 can be obtained from the Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-5387).

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February 6, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PASTURE SYMPOSIUM – 1984

The Alberta Pasture Symposium – 1984 will bring together nationally recognized forage specialists from Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia who will present the latest information they have on pasture management and related topics.

Sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the Pembina Forage Association and the West Central Forage Association, the symposium will be held in Westlock on March 7 and in Spruce Grove on March 8. This is the first time the symposium has been held, and one of its main objectives will be to improve pasture management in the northwestern region of the province.

The Alberta speakers will provide a follow-up to the various activities that were carried out last summer by Alberta Agriculture staff in the northwestern region and by the staff at the Pembina Forage Association and the West Central Forage Association. These activities included forage tours, Farming for the Future's On-Farm Demonstration Projects and a variety of forage association projects. The symposium will also provide a good follow-up to the seminars on pasture management that are being held by district agriculturists throughout the northwestern region of the province.

The topics that will be covered include: the use of legumes in pastures; bloat and the effect of grazing on grass. There will also be presentations on obtaining more than 500 pounds of gain per acre through good pasture management and whether pasture management really pays. Successful rotational grazing projects will be the subject of the panel discussion.

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Pasture Symposium – 1984 (cont'd)

Those who attend the symposium will receive a copy of the Alberta Pasture Symposium Proceedings and there will be revised copies of the Northwest Region Pasture Management Manual available. The $15 registration fee includes lunch.

Because of the great interest in the symposium that is expected, registration has been limited to 300 and a preregistration deadline of February 27 has been set.

Further information can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district offices at Westlock (349-4465) and Stony Plain (963-6101).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARLEY DAYS AT OLDS

Alberta Agriculture, in cooperation with the Western Barley Growers' Association, is sponsoring "Olds Barley Days" at Olds College in Olds on February 28 and 29.

Following is a list of the topics that will be covered and the speakers.

- Barley Varieties – Dr. Jim Helm, Alberta Agriculture
- Barley Diseases – Jim Letal, Alberta Agriculture
- Storage and Conditioning – Rich Smith, Alberta Agriculture
- Cultural Practices by Top Producers – Murray McLelland, Alberta Agriculture
- Weed Control – Walter Yarish, Alberta Agriculture
- Feed Grain Policy – (Speaker from Western Barley Growers Association to be announced)
- Marketing Strategies – Dwayne Couldwell, Alberta Agriculture
- Meeting the Maltsters' Requirements – Harry Hatch, Canada Malting Company
- More Dollars for Bigger Yields, – Lorne Owen, Alberta Agriculture
- Fertility Related to Barley Production – Doug Penny, Alberta Agriculture
- Fertilizer Placement – John Harapiak, Western Coop Fertilizer Ltd.

"Olds Barley Days" will also include a history and an outline of the goals and objective of the Western Barley Growers' Association.

Anyone who plans to attend "Olds Barley Days" is asked to register before February 24 by telephoning the Olds district office at 556-4220. The registration fee is $15, which will include lunch on both days. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis.

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February 6, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED FAIR – '84

Weed Fair – 84, a trade and information show that is jointly sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association, will be held in:

- The Grande Prairie Exhibition Grounds on February 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The Camrose Agri-Centre on February 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The Red Deer Capri Centre on February 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to exhibits by agricultural chemical manufacturers and application equipment suppliers, and the latest in computer technology as it relates to weed control, the fair will feature three timely seminars. Knowledgeable speakers will discuss such topics as driftless sprayers, weed control in continuous cropping programs and agricultural chemical toxicity.

In short, the fair will offer those who attend it an opportunity to meet, to update themselves on the latest agricultural technology and, most importantly, to compare the various products on the market.

Further information on Weed Fair – '84 can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of weed control and herbicides, Walter Yarish, at 427-5329 or from any agricultural chemicals representative.

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AGRI-NEWS

February 13, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1984 HOG PRICE OUTLOOK

Although some price strength will be evident in 1984 hog prices, relative to 1983 prices, they are not expected to rise sharply or to be significantly stronger during the first half of the year.

Alberta Agriculture's livestock economist, Gordon Herrington, expects 100 index hog prices in Alberta to reach the upper $60 per hundredweight range in the first quarter of this year, but to start dropping towards the end of the quarter to the low $60 range before recovering again in the second quarter to reach the low $70 range. He also believes that the year's peak prices will occur in the third quarter, but he does not expect them to exceed the low $80 per hundredweight range.

Farrowing intention reports for both Canada and the United States indicate a continuation in production increases in early 1984, which will gradually taper off as the year progresses. However, in western Canada downward shifts in production intentions are expected to be almost negligible, and, while an output expansion may not persist throughout 1984, the current high output level will be sustained for most of the year. The net effect, according to Mr Herrington, will be a larger aggregate output in 1984, relative to 1983, but a reduction in the rate of expansion.

Inventory reports suggest that a large supply of market hogs will reach market weights during the first quarter and early in the second quarter of 1984. Mr. Herrington says some upward strength in feed prices during the first quarter will put additional pressure on marketings. And, subject to marketing delays because of adverse weather conditions, a price weakness is expected to occur in the first quarter and early in the second quarter before an increase in seasonal demand and some price strengthening occurs as the second quarter progresses.

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1984 Hog Price Outlook (cont'd)

In the United States market price peaks and troughs are expected to be more pronounced than those in Canada but to follow a similar pattern. Slower and less pronounced changes in Western Canadian hog production and the resulting widening of market price differentials between Western Canadian markets and mid-western United States' markets will account for wider price disparities in 1984, Mr. Herrington says.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of January, 1984.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1984 LAMB PRICE OUTLOOK

Alberta lamb prices are expected to be in high $70 per hundredweight range by the second quarter of this year, and the level of slaughter is expected to continue its present upward trend throughout 1984 if the lamb crop is normal and if expectations for continued live lamb imports materialize.

Although supplies will be the key factor that determines 1984 prices, weather conditions, the prices of competitive meats and the economy will all play a part in the prices that producers receive.

Debby Thorsen, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, reports there is evidence that lamb producers have reverted to normal seasonal breeding and fall marketing. If this is the case, she says 1984 lamb prices should follow the normal seasonal pattern with peaks just before Easter and lows beginning in August.

An increased slaughter level and lower prices were the key factors in the lamb industry in 1983. According to Ms. Thorsen, the Canadian slaughter level was up by 16 per cent from 1982. And increases of 17 per cent and 14 per cent were recorded in Western and Eastern Canada respectively. Both lamb and mutton imports increased compared with 1982, as did live lamb imports from the United States.

Ms. Thorsen also reports that Alberta lamb prices peaked in April last year, recovered somewhat in June and then fell to their low for the year in July. The national trend

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1984 Lamb Price Outlook (cont'd)

followed a similar pattern only the trend was more exaggerated. Toronto's stockyard prices fluctuated dramatically from one week to another, depending upon the volume of sales, the quality of the product and packer demand.

Ms. Thorsen says prices at Lambco in Innisfail were relatively steady. Last year's average price at Lambco ranged from $64.87 to $66.87 per hundredweight compared with $65.08 to $67.22 in 1982.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of January, 1984.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW KIDNEY DISEASE OF SHEEP FOUND IN ALBERTA

A new kidney disease, known as mesangiocapillary glomerulonephritis, has been found in three flocks of Finnish Landrace cross-bred sheep in Alberta.

The incidence of the disease in North America is not known, but until recently it was limited to a research flock of Finnish Landrace sheep in Scotland. So far it is known to occur only in Finnish pure-bred and cross-bred sheep.

According to Dr. P.F. Frelier of Alberta Agriculture's regional veterinary laobora-tory in Airdrie, the cause of the disease has not been determined, but studies have indicated that it is probably of genetic origin. However, the mode of inheritance is not known.

Dr. Frelier says that lambs that contract the disease may not show any signs of illness, but that they will die before they are four months old. He also says a few lambs may show such clinical signs as circling, convulsions, an unsteady gait or muscular tremors, and that some of these lambs may show microscopic evidence of brain damage.

Because there are other diseases that affect the brain of sheep, and cause nervous signs, diagnosis of this kidney disease can be difficult. A tentative diagnosis requires the microscopic examination of the kidneys, which are approximately twice the size of normal kidneys when the disease is present, and confirmation of the diagnosis requires special tests.

Alberta Agriculture's animal health division is establishing a research flock of Finnish Landrace sheep so that the mode of inheritance and the cause of the disease can be studied. Dr. Frelier says not all the lambs in a litter are necessarily affected with the disease, and that identical ram-ewe matings may not always produce lambs that have the problem.

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A New Kidney Disease Of Sheep Found In Alberta (cont'd)

Because a microscopic examination of the kidneys is required, Dr. Frelier would like any lamb that is suspected of having died from the disease to be examined by a veterinary pathologist, and he would like to be informed of any cases that are positive.

Mesangiocapillary glomerulonephritis also occurs in human beings, and, as in the case of sheep, there is no known cure.

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February 13, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROP INSURANCE PROGRAMS FOR PEDIGREED SEED GROWERS

Alberta's pedigreed seed growers are to have their own crop insurance programs this year.

The secretary-manager of the Alberta Forage Seed Council, Larry Gareau, says the programs were initiated and developed by the council in cooperation with the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, and that they will be partially funded and administered by the Canada-Alberta Crop Insurance Corporation.

The program for pedigreed cereal and oilseed growers provides for a 15 per cent higher coverage for pedigreed cereal crops than that available under the basic crop insurance program, and a 20 per cent higher coverage for pedigreed oilseed crops than is available for commercial crops. The premiums will be correspondingly higher.

The program for alfalfa pedigreed seed growers provides for four levels of coverage with the premiums varying accordingly. Those who have kept records of their yields over the past five years can choose either a 60 or 70 per cent level of coverage that is based on their yield per acre for the last five years. Growers who do not have records for the last five years can also choose a 60 or 70 per cent level of coverage, but it will be based on an area yield of 120 kg (265 lb) per acre.

For the purpose of establishing claims and premium levels two price options are also being offered on this year's crop. One is $1.65 per kg (75¢ per lb) and the other is $4.43 per kg ($1.10 per lb).

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Crop Insurance Programs For Pedigreed Seed Growers (cont'd)

The program for pedigreed creeping red fescue growers offers only one level of coverage this year. It will be equivalent to 70 per cent of the grower's five-year average yield per acre. In the case of a new grower, or one who has less than five years of records, the coverage will be based on an average area yield. It has been set at 155 kg (340 lb) per acre. Two price options are also being offered for this year's crop. They are 66¢ per kg (30¢ per lb) and $1.10 per kg (50¢ per lb).

Mr. Gareau says the new programs have been designed to provide coverage against any loss of seed from the natural hazards of weather, pests and diseases that occur between May 1 and the completion of harvesting, or September 15, whichever occurs first. A hai endorsement for protection against spot hail losses is also available for an additional premium of 40 per cent of the Canada-Alberta Crop Insurance Corporation's normal rate for hail.

The deadline for applications for any of these programs is April 30, 1984.

Details on the programs and information on the premiums can be obtained from any of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation's fieldmen.

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February 13, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CULLING STRATEGIES AND BREEDING SYSTEMS

Animal scientists at Washington State University in the United States have developed a computer model that will project the net income from various culling strategies and mating systems in beef cattle herds.

According to information received by Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle specialist, Ross Gould, three culling criteria and five mating systems are used in the model. The culling criteria are cull cows that are not pregnant when their calves are weaned; cull cows at the end of the calving season that did not have a calf; and cull cows that failed to wean a calf whether or not they are pregnant. The five mating systems used in the program are straight breeding; two-breed rotational crossing; three-breed rotational crossing; two-breed terminal crossing; and three-breed terminal crossing. All replacement animals are raised on the premises.

The research findings showed that net incomes were increased when non-pregnant cows were culled at weaning time and when cows which did not have live calves were culled at the end of the breeding season and replaced with breeding heifers. The use of both these culling strategies at the same time produced the highest net income. Culling cows that did not have a live calf at weaning time produced the lowest net income because there was no chance to replace them with bred heifers from the herd in the fall, which meant that the following year's calf crop was reduced. Regardless of the strategy used, all unsound animals were automatically culled.

As far as mating was concerned, the rotational cross-breeding systems produced higher net incomes than the terminal cross systems because of the number of straightbred cows that had to be kept to produce the replacements for the terminal systems. The lower production from the straightbred cows produced a lower net income. The highest net income

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Culling Strategies And Breeding Systems (cont'd)

came from the herd where a three-breed rotational mating system was used, and cows that were open at weaning time, and cows that did not have a live calf at the end of the calving season, were culled in addition to all unsound animals.

The model predicted that a straightbred herd of 200 cows in which only the unsound animals were culled would show a net loss of $2,529. If cows which did not have calves were culled at the end of the calving season, and cows which were not pregnant were culled at weaning time, the same herd would show a net income of $3,045, representing a $5,574 difference in incomes or $27.87 per cow.

Among the mating systems, the most profitable was the three-breed rotational cross. When the most effective culling method, noted above, was used on this herd, it showed a net income of $7,334 compared with $6,513 for the two-breed rotational cross and only $5,161 for the three-breed terminal cross.

All the cross-breeding systems were more profitable than the straightbred system, which produced only $3,045 when the same culling strategies were used. The difference between the most and the least profitable breeding system was $4,289 or $21.45 per cow.

Anyone who would like more information on culling strategies or mating systems should contact Ross Gould, Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-5335).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PESTICIDES UNDER REVIEW BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

New test results on the potential health hazards of 31 pesticides are being reviewed by Health and Welfare Canada to determine the future use of these pesticides in agriculture.

Dr. Moe Hussain, pesticide issues coordinator with Alberta Agriculture, points out that six years ago a systematic review of 106 pesticides was undertaken by Health and Welfare Canada. These pesticides had been registered by the federal government and were being used in agriculture. However, it was later revealed that most of the test results that had been submitted by manufacturers to support their registration had been falsified. In some cases, no tests had been done, but results were claimed to have been obtained. It was in response to this situation that the review was initiated, and manufacturers were requested to repeat the tests.

Since that time, tests have been repeated on 65 pesticides, and the results have indicated that they pose no health hazards. No repeat tests were done on 10 other pesticides because they were not used to any great extent, and, hence, returns from sales would not be enough to warrant the manufacturers investing several million dollars to do the tests. These pesticides have since been removed from use.

Dr. Hussain reports that the remaining 31 pesticides now under review are used to a large extent in Alberta, and he hopes they will come through the review successfully. He says they have been in use for several years by farmers and that no major health problems from exposure have been noted. It would be unfortunate if any of them were found to cause injury to health in animal tests because it could mean that they would be withdrawn from use.

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Pesticides Under Review By Federal Government (cont'd)

Dr. Hussain points out that some of the pesticides now being reviewed that are used in Alberta are: Avadex, Betanex, Carbyne, Dual, Gromoxone, Metasystox-R, Orthene, Patoran, Thiodan and Tordon. They all have a warning on their labels to indicate to the user to avoid exposure and that protective clothing and equipment must be used when applying them. Dr. Hussain cautions farmers to look for this warning on the labels and to use coveralls, gloves, goggles and respirators when mixing or using them.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROSSFIELD BOY WINS $3,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Mark Cameron, 22, and an outstanding former 4-H member from Crossfield, has received the Alberta Dairymen's Association and Alberta Agriculture Scholarship for the second consecutive year.

Mark Cameron

The scholarship, worth $3,000, is awarded every year to a former 4-H'er, who is studying dairy science, for academic excellence and 4-H achievement.

Mr. Cameron was a member of the Crossfield-Didsbury-Carstairs club for 10 years and previously received the Central Alberta Dairy Pool Scholarship. He is now studying dairy science at the California Polytechnical University in California, and is in the top 15 per cent of all the students in the United States who are studying dairy science.

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February 13, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HARVEST MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

Natural air drying and the aeration of grain is the theme of a harvest management seminar that will be held in the Elk Hall in Vermilion on February 23.

It has been designed to show what all the new technology that is now available for harvesting, conditioning, drying and moving grain can mean to the average farmer and to show him how it can fit into his operations.

Orly Friesen, chief agricultural engineer with Manitoba Agriculture, will discuss the "Natural Air Drying and Aeration of Grain". He is a co-author of the publications "Movement of Natural Air Through Grain" and "Fan Selection" and is one of Canada's leading authorities on natural air drying and aeration.

George Daugela, president and general manager of Vertec Industries of Vermilion, which manufactures a grain dryer with an international reputation, will speak on "An Economical Approach to Materials Handling". He will show how it is not necessary to spend a vast amount of money to have a good grain handling system if the plan is well thought out and systematically carried out.

Neil Blue, Alberta Agriculture's regional economist at Vermilion, will discuss the "Economics of Grain Drying".

Ken McLennan, supervisor of electrical inspectors with Alberta Labor in Vermilion , will outline planning considerations that should be taken into account in electrical installations.

Murray Green, Alberta Agriculture's farm machinery specialist at Airdrie, will speak about "Warm Air Dryers and Drying".

George Rock, district agriculturist at Vermilion, will talk about "Good Weather for Harvesting — What are the Odds?".

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Harvest Management Seminar (cont'd)

Brian Kennedy, Alberta Agriculture's regional engineer at Vermilion will be the seminar chairman.

The seminar will commence at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. The registration fee of $20, which includes lunch, should be sent to Mr. Rock by February 17 and cheques should be made payable to the Vermilion Agricultural Society. Mr. Rock's telephone number is 853-2811 and his address is Box 600, Vermilion, Alberta, TOB 4MO.

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February 13, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO TWO HILLS

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Holly Pidzarko to the position of district home economist at Two Hills.

Ms. Pidzarko was born and raised in a farming community near Athabasca. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (home economics) in 1982, having majored in family studies.

During the summer of 1981 she was a summer assistant district home economist at Camrose. She took her district home economist training in Warner in 1982 and was temporarily appointed district home economist at Bonnyville in 1983. During the same year she had another temporary appointment. This time it was to Fort Vermilion, where she remained until her present appointment.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
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February 20, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 20, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INCREASED PRODUCTION COSTS PREDICTED IF HERBICIDE BANNED

Canadian farmers could face an increase in crop production costs amounting to more than $66 million per year if the phenoxy herbicides 2,4-D and MCPA are banned. These are the conclusions of a report prepared by Agriculture Canada on the economic benefits to agriculture of the herbicides.

Dr. Moe Hussain, pesticide issues coordinator with Alberta Agriculture, points out that because 2,4-D and MCPA were registered in the late 1940's they are currently undergoing additional safety tests to bring them in line with today's requirements. Following completion of the tests, the results will be evaluated by Health and Welfare Canada to determine their future use.

The federal report indicates that if only 2,4-D is banned, farmers are likely to resort to the use of MCPA. MCPA is slightly more expensive than 2,4-D and would cause an increase in farmers' production costs of nearly $9 million per year. Losses from reduced crop yields and quality are expected to be minor. However, if 2,4-D is banned, MCPA will probably also be banned because the two herbicides belong to the same chemical family and thus have a similar molecular structure.

If 2,4-D and MCPA are banned, farmers could use bromoxynil and decamba, both of which are much more expensive than the phenoxy herbicides. The report estimates that farmers would pay an additional $66 million per year to treat crops within bromoxynil or dicamba. And additional losses due to a decrease in crop production and reduced grain quality would be incurred.

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Increased Production Costs Predicted If Herbicide Banned (cont'd)

The report suggests that if only Canada were to ban the two phenoxy herbicides, grain farmers in this country would have to bear the brunt of the increased costs and would suffer severe economic losses. On the other hand, if other countries, especially the United States, were to join in the ban, consumers in the importing countries, as opposed to Canadian farmers, would end up paying for the costs incurred.

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February 20, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW CONGENITAL CALF DEFECT

A recently described condition, "shaker calves", has appeared in a very inbred Alberta cattle herd.

"Shaker calves" is a nervous disease that is characterized by weak, incoordinated and trembling calves that are unable to bawl. According to the head of the reproduction section on Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, Dr. G.G. Klavano, such calves may be able to fend for themselves in a few days if they are assisted to rise and to nurse. He points out, however, that they will go into convulsions is they are stressed, but that the convulsions can usually be stopped by removing the source of stress.

He urges owners of herds that produce a number of newborn calves which appear to be suffering from the above condition to have the problem investigated. "It is very possible," he says, "that it can be resolved through changes in management and genetic counselling." Line breeding and the increasing use of artificial insemination appear to be producing some hereditary defects in cattle.

Dr. Klavano believes an investigation should be carried out whenever the possibility of a congenital defect is noticed because the use of various chemicals and other environmental contaminants can adversely affect newborn animals. As in past years, Alberta Agriculture's veterinary laboratories will examine and endeavour to diagnose any animals which appear to have congenital defects.

Dr. Klavano says, because of its possible use as an animal model for certain groups of nervous conditions in human beings, the "shaker calves" condition is going to be studied in depth.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A VACCINE FOR WARBLE GRUBS

A vaccine developed at the federal research station at Lethbridge has reduced warble grub infestations on calves by 65 per cent.

In preliminary trials carried out at Lethbridge, calves were immunized with a vaccine prepared from a crude extract of warble grub larvae and artificially infested with a predetermined number of larvae. Grub survival was then monitored to determine the effect of the immunization on their development.

When compared with untreated animals, which had also been artificially infested with warble grub larvae, the vaccinated calves had 65 per cent fewer grubs. In view of these encouraging results the federal scientists at Lethbridge are planning to develop a more refined and potent vaccine that will provide even greater protection against warbles. However, it will probably be several years before it is available commercially.

The idea behind vaccinating to control warble grubs is to speed up an animal's natural process of acquiring resistance so that it will produce enough antibodies to curtail the development of warble grubs. It is now known that an animal's resistance to warbles increases as the number of times it is exposed to warbles increases.

Dr. Ali Khan, Alberta Agriculture's livestock pest specialist, says a warble grub vaccine would be a great boon to cattlemen because it would eliminate the need to treat calves with a systemic insecticide in the fall when they are already facing other stresses, and that it would protect them from infestations during the summer if they were vaccinated at branding time.

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February 20, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADDITIONAL NATURAL GAS REBATE FOR ALBERTA FARMERS

It seems that there may be some farmers in Alberta who are not aware of the additional rebate on natural gas purchase that is available under the Primary Agricultural Producers' Rebate Program.

The director of the rebates branch of Alberta Utilities and Telecommunications, Gavin Breckenridge, explains that a direct rebate of 50¢ per gigajoule (GJ) will be paid on natural gas consumption that exceeds 300 GJ in a calendar year up to a maximum of 10,000 GJ in that year. In dollar terms, this translates into a possible maximum rebate of $4,850 per calendar year.

People who are eligible for the rebate include those who are engaged in the production of field crops, livestock and poultry and those who are engaged in greenhouse (including ornamental), irrigation, grain drying and sod and peat farming operations.

The Primary Agricultural Producers' Rebate Program is retroactive to January 1, 1982 and will be terminated on December 31, 1984. Those who are eligible for the rebate may apply anytime during the current year.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from district agriculturists and natural gas distributors or by writing to the Rebates Branch, Alberta Utilities and Telecommunications, 12323 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta, T5N 3Y9 or by calling 1-422-1233.

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February 20, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EFFECT OF BREED, NUTRITION AND SEASON OF BIRTH ON CATTLE REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE

What effect does breed, feeding and season of birth have on the age at which heifers reach puberty and on their post-weaning performance?

To answer this question scientists at the University of Wisconsin in the United States compared heifers of Hereford and Holstein breeding and heifers from Holstein cows sired by Angus, Hereford, Simmental and Chianina bulls. All the heifers were divided into groups which received either 40 to 50 per cent grain or no grain in their post-weaning rations. The research also compared heifers that had been chosen from sets of identical and fraternal twins and animals that had been born from January to March and from April to June.

Ross Gould, beef cattle specialist with Alberta Agriculture, who received a report on the research, says it shows that the Holstein heifers reached puberty at 342 days, while the Herefords did not reach it until they were 431 days old. And the heifers that received a ration which contained grain reached it 35 days earlier (369 versus 404) than the heifers which received an all roughage ration. The heifers born in the winter period took longer to mature (394 versus 379) than those born in the spring.

The report also shows that the Holstein heifers had a better post-weaning feed to gain performance than the Hereford heifers (9.4 versus 11.5). And the heifers on the grain rations had a better feed to gain ratio than those which received only roughage (8.1 versus 12.7). However, season of birth had no effect on the feed required per unit of gain in the post-weaning period.

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Effect Of Breed, Nutrition And Season
Of Birth On Cattle Reproductive Performance (cont'd)

In the part of the research which involved the crossbred heifers, there was little difference in age at puberty and feed consumption per unit of gain as a result of the sires used, except in the case of the Chianina-sired calves which tended to mature a bit later than the heifers sired by the Hereford, Angus and Simmental bulls (455 versus 381 days). This part of the research also showed that feeding an all roughage ration caused a very significant delay in the time the heifers reached puberty compared with those that received grain (493 versus 305 days). It also showed that grain-fed heifers had a much better feed to gain ratio in the post-weaning period (6.5 versus 12.6).

Season of birth also appeared to affect the age at puberty. The researchers felt that the winter conditions during a calf's early life seemed to delay puberty. And they suggested that the level of nutrition may have a greater effect on age at puberty among fall-born heifers than among spring-born animals. When on a low energy diet, the former appeared to be more likely to reach their second winter without becoming sexually mature than heifers which had received a ration that contained grain to increase their energy level.

When the Wisconsin researchers followed the heifers through to their post-weaning performance, they found that the heifers that received the grain-supplemented rations were quicker to come into heat, and that they conceived quicker after calving than was the case with the heifers which had received only hay in their rations. This effect was even noticed into the second calving season, but it did not show up after the third calf.

The researchers also found that an early return to heat and an early conception following calving was affected more by diet in the Holstein heifers than in the Hereford heifers. They concluded that, because diet influences reproduction more in Holsteins than in

Effect Of Breed, Nutrition And Season
Of Birth On Cattle Reproductive Performance (cont'd)

Herefords, the use of dairy breeds in beef production may necessitate feeding rations that are higher than normal in energy if maximum reproductive performance is to be achieved. According to Mr. Gould, this principle has been well understood by Alberta beef producers since the 1970's when they started using such heavier milking breeds as the Brown Swiss and Simmentals in their cross-breeding programs.

Further information on the above research can be obtained from Ross Gould, Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (427-5335).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZERO TILLAGE VERSUS MINIMUM TILLAGE TRIAL

The third year of a demonstration trial near Stavely in which zero tillage is being compared with minimum tillage under continuous cropping has shown noticeably less annual and perennial weed growth, but average yields have been slightly lower and average costs slightly higher for the zero tillage.

The trial, which has another year to go, is being carried out under Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future On-Farm Demonstration Program. Its objective is to compare crop yields, herbicide costs and herbicide management practices for a 15-acre field under zero tillage conditions with those for a 15-acre field under minimum tillage and a continuous spring wheat cropping program. Another part of the trial involves assessing the efficiency of the commonly used hoe seed drill, I.H.C. model 150 which has 8 inch spacings, as opposed to a more expensive zero till drill.

Claresholm's district agriculturist, Allen Toley, reports that the incidence of both annual and perennial weeds was noticeably lower in the zero tillage field than in the minimum tillage continuous cropping field, but he points out that part of the reduction in weed growth could have been due to the fact that both 1982 and 1983 were dry years. The weeds that were initially present in both fields were wild oats, flixweed, wild buckwheat, shepherd's purse, stinkweed, bluebur, Canada thistle and some volunteer alfalfa and brome grass.

The herbicide combination that was used this year in conjunction with the zero tillage was 2,4-D amine (6 oz active ingredient per acre) and Roundup (3.3 oz active ingredient per acre) plus Tween 20, a new surfactant that was used to improve the performance of Roundup at the lower rate. According to Mr. Toley, the herbicide combination was applied before seeding, and it cost $9.67 per acre. He also says that wild oat and broadleaf herbicides were used in both fields during the growing season.

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Zero Tillage Versus Minimum Tillage Trial (cont'd)

"The I.H.C. drill worked very well under zero tillage conditions," Mr. Toley says. However, there was some plugging during the first year of the trial because the straw from the previous year's crop had not been properly spread. When it was properly spread during combining and when sharp openers were used on the drill under dry conditions, the drill placed the seed well and germination and emergence were both good.

A hundred pounds of urea (46-0-0) per acre has been used during the last three years on both fields in the early spring and 50 pounds of 11-51-0 has been applied with the seed.

The following table shows the growing season, moisture conditions for the last three years in the area where the trial is being conducted and it shows the crop yields and the costs involved in producing the crops under zero tillage and minimum tillage conditions.

	Growing Season Moisture	Yields (bu/acre) Zero Till	Yields (bu/acre) Minimum Till	Costs (Dollars per acre) Zero Till	Costs (Dollars per acre) Minimum Till
1981	10.5"	37.6	42.5	82.21	76.66
1982	4.0"	22.0	22.0	88.66	87.49
1983	4.5"	29.6	30.6	88.21	86.67

Mr. Toley says crop yields were obtained by hauling the grain from each of the 15-acre fields to the elevator. The costs involved in their production consist of the actual costs of the fertilizers, herbicides and seed, while the costs used for the cultural and harvesting operations were taken from Alberta Agriculture's "Farm Machinery Costs As a Guide to Custom Rates".

February 20, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREE FRUIT CULTIVARS FOR THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

The breeding and the selection of tree fruit cultivars for general distribution represents an important part of the work being done at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

As a result of the Prairie Cooperative Fruit Breeding Program and the Brooks Fruit Improvement Program, six apple and two plum cultivars and one apricot cultivar have been named by the center and released for distribution in the three Prairie provinces.

The apple cultivars are Westland, Parkland, Norland, Brookland, Sunnybrook and Rosybrook.

- Westland is an annual bearer. The tree is semi-vigorous, compact, and very hardy. The fruit ripens from mid to late August, is round-conic and measures 7 to 8 cm in diameter. It contains a creamy-white flesh which is moderately acid. Its quality is excellent for cooking and fair for eating, and, if the fruit is picked before it is fully ripe, it can be stored for about nine weeks.

- Parkland has a tendency to biennial bearing. However, this characteristic can be corrected to some extent by thinning the fruit. The tree is semi-vigorous and spreads upwards. The fruit ripens in mid-August, is round-oblate and 6 to 7 cm in diameter. Its flesh is creamy-white tinged with green and moderately acid. The fruit is suitable for cooking and eating fresh and it stores well.

- Norland is an annual bearer. The tree is semi-vigorous and spreads upwards. The fruit ripens from mid to late August, is oblong-conic and 6 to 7 cm in diameter. The flesh is creamy-white tinged with green, slightly coarse in texture and moderately acid. The fruit can be cooked or eaten fresh, and it stores well.

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Tree Fruit Cultivars For The Prairie Provinces (cont'd)

- Brookland is particularly suited to Alberta conditions and is an annual bearer. The tree is compact, has a round spreading head and is very hardy. The fruit ripens in late August or early September, is round and 6 to 7 cm in diameter. The flesh is crisp, coarse and sweet. The fruit is good for cooking and eating fresh, and it stores well.

- Sunnybrook is an annual bearer. The tree is upright, has a spreading head and is hardy. The fruit ripens in late August or early September, is 6 to 7 cm in diameter and has a yellow skin with bright red cheeks. The flesh is creamy, fine-textured, has a small core and is slightly acid but sweet. The fruit is good for cooking and eating fresh, and it stores fairly well.

- Rosybrook is an apple-crab and an annual bearer. The tree is medium-sized, round-headed, hardy and productive. The fruit ripens in early September, is round, four to five cm in diameter, long stemmed and pale yellowish, and is mostly covered with red. The flesh is creamy-white, fine textured, firm, crisp and sweet. The fruit is very good for pies, canning and eating fresh, and it can be kept in storage until the end of November.

The plum cultivars are: Brookgold and Brookred.

- Brookgold is a Japanese type of plum that was bred from seed that came from Manchuria in China. The tree is moderately vigorous and medium-sized. It blooms early and the fruit ripens in mid-August. The fruit is 2.5 to 3 cm in diameter and golden with a red splash on the exposed cheek. It is free-stoned, has a tender skin and it is very palatable and good for eating fresh.

- Brookred came from seed collected at the federal research station in Morden, Manitoba. The tree is large, upright, spreading , hardy and a moderate producer. The fruit ripens in late August, is 4 to 5 cm in diameter and a dull, dark red. It is excellent for jam and is good eaten fresh.

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Tree Fruit Cultivars For The Prairie Provinces (cont'd)

The apricot cultivar is Brookcot.

- Brookcot is a Manchurian apricot. The tree is upright and tall but has poor branching. However, this characteristic can be corrected by pruning. The fruit is 3 to 4 cm in diameter and a bright yellow-orange with a red cheek. It has a slightly clinging stone, is juicy and fine-textured and has a very good flavor.

Anyone who is interested in obtaining more details on the above cultivars or in obtaining the cultivars themselves should contact Dr. S. Mahadeva, head of Environmental Horticulture, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO (Telephone: 362-3391).

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February 20, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAUTION ADVISED WHEN IMPORTING GARDEN SEED PACKAGES

Are you aware that you could introduce a new weed species into Alberta when you order a package of flower or ornamental grass seed from abroad?

The supervisor of Alberta Agriculture's weed control section, Walter Yarish, points out that wild flower seed mixtures and ornamental grass seed mixtures are a common source of weed seeds. He reports one alert gardener informed the weed authorities that he had found a giant foxtail seed, indigenous to the corn and soybean-growing area in the United States, in a package of wild flower seed that he had imported. Mr. Yarish also says that toadflax and scentless chamomile are commonly found in wild flower mixtures, and that both diffuse and spotted knapweed have been identified in imported dried plant arrangements.

Hence, he advises anyone who cannot identify the seeds that he or she is ordering against importing garden seed packages from another country. Custom officials cannot open and check every small package for undesirable seeds, and even if they could, it is very unlikely that they would be able to identify a specific weed seed.

Mr. Yarish explains that the importation of even one weed seed in a package could be the start of a new species in Alberta, and that, over the long run, such an introduction could prove a very expensive proposition for our agricultural industry. He also advises anyone who finds an unfamiliar seed in a package of seed to either send the package back to where it came from or else to destroy the seed by crushing or burning it. "Never throw it in the garbage," he says, "because it could end up in an area where it could grow and reproduce!

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February 20, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATER MANAGEMENT AND DRAINAGE SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR CAMROSE

Alberta Agriculture and Unifarm are sponsoring a two-day water management and drainage seminar in the Norseman Inn in Camrose on February 28 and 29.

It has been designed to provide farmers and county officials with comprehensive information on water management policies and the water assistance programs that are provided by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act and Ducks Unlimited. It will also include technical information on open ditch drainage and supplemental irrigation systems.

Henry Krueger, chairman of the Water Commission for Alberta, will be the guest speaker at the noon luncheon on February 28, and Cal Brandley, Alberta Agriculture's extension law specialist, will discuss the legal implications of water management on February 29.

A panel of representatives from the counties of Athabasca, Flagstaff and Camrose will discuss their drainage activities and policies, while another panel will discuss the experiences, successes and failures of drainage districts.

The registration fee of $10 per day, which will be collected at the door, includes the noon lunch and coffee. However, pre-notification of registration is recommended. It can be done by contacting Alberta Agriculture's district office in Camrose at 679 -1210.

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February 20, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTED TO WESTLOCK

J.B. Tackaberry, Alberta Agriculture's regional director at Barrhead, has announced the appointment of Rod Carlyon to the position of district agriculturist at Westlock.

Having been raised on a beef farm near Millerville, Mr. Carlyon has a keen interest in livestock production and pasture management. His areas of study at the University of Alberta, from which he graduated in 1982, were beef production and pasture management.

After he completed his district agriculturist training under senior district agriculturist, Miles Kuryvial, at Grande Prairie, Mr. Carlyon worked out of that office until his present appointment.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO THREE HILLS

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Karen Hoover to the position of district home economist at Three Hills.

Ms. Hoover was born in Hanna and grew up on a mixed farm north of Delia. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 1977 with a B.Sc. (home economics) and subsequently attended two sessions in extension at the University of Arizona in the United States.

Prior to graduating from University of Alberta, she worked in Edmonton and High River. Since graduation she has been district home economist at Peace River, Manning and Westlock.

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AGRI-NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUDGET OFFERS "ROLL-AID" RELIEF FOR FARMERS

Marc Lalonde's latest budget provides for a few changes for today, and a lot of "maybe's" for tomorrow, but there are some very important proposals in it that could affect farmers' estate planning.

Mr. Lalonde has, for example, proposed a special tax rollover provision that would allow farmers to contribute to an RRSP up to a maximum of $120,000 of taxable capital gains obtained from a farm-related sale. The actual amount that could be contributed would be arrived at by multiplying by $10,000 the number of years that the individual had farmed between 1972 and 1983. The age limit of 71 years for contributing to an RRSP would be waived for this rollover. However, regular RRSP contributions that are made for 1984 and 1985 will reduce the total amount of the rollover.

The rollover would apply to full-time farmers who owned their land on December 31, 1983 and who had a capital gain from the sale of land, buildings, farm corporation shares or a farm partnership interest after that period.

Mr. Lalonde's budget also proposes legislation that would allow the transfer of farm property to a child to be treated in the same way from a tax point of view upon a parent's death as it would be treated if the parent were still alive. In other words, a parent could stipulate in his will that the child should pay into the parent's estate any amount up to the fair market value of the property. The estate would receive the stated value from the child, and depending upon its amount, the estate could be liable for a capital gains tax.
Existing tax rules allow a rollover of the tax on capital gains to a child upon the death of a parent only if the property was transferred as a gift. In this context the term property includes land, buildings, machinery and shares in a family farm corporation or an interest in a farm partnership.

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Budget Offers "Roll-Aid" Relief for Farmers (cont'd)

Another proposal in the budget would allow the estate of a child who had received a transfer of property from his or her parents, and who had subsequently died, to return it to the parents at a value varying anywhere from zero to its true market value. This means that if the property's value was put at zero, it could be returned to the parents tax-free upon the child's death. In this context property is defined as land and buildings and shares in a farm corporation and an interest in a farm partnership.

The budget also proposes that a tax rollover of property should be permitted when land owned by a parent or child is farmed by a corporation in which the parent or child has shares or by a partnership in which they have an interest. Present tax rules do not allow a rollover of farm property to a child when the property is being farmed by a company or nonqualifying partnership.

Under the proposals, contained in the new budget, the tax rollover of farm property to a child will be extended to include anyone who, at any time before he or she reached the age of 21, was wholly dependent upon the parent for support. At the present time the definition of a child includes sons and daughters and sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, adopted children, etc.

The budget also proposes changes to pensions and RRSPs as well as the initiation of homeowner insurance, small business tax simiplifications and company profit sharing plans, but since these proposals are still only in the study phase, it is likely to be some time before they are actually legislated into law.

Dan Hilsenteger of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, says, in light of the proposed tax rollover changes, it is extremely important that farmers review their wills and estate plans. "It would appear, " he says, "that insurance requirements may change, that custom farming arrangements may no longer be necessary and that some clauses in wills may soon be outdated. Although these changes are not yet in effect, they are likely to be passed into law in the near future and they will all be retroactive to the beginning of 1984.

Mr. Hilsenteger also strongly advises farmers to check with a professional tax advisor to see exactly how the new budget could affect their individual situations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COCCIDIOSIS DIAGNOSED IN ALBERTA PIGLETS

Although coccidiosis has been recognized during the last few years as being a cause of scours in piglets in Eastern Canada, and in some other countries, it was not thought to be a problem in Alberta until recently.

Alberta Agriculture's veterinary pathologist, Dr. A.W. Perry, reports that coccidiosis has been diagnosed in the last few months in piglets on a number of farms located throughout the province, and that in some cases, the diagnosis has been confirmed by provincial veterinary laboratories.

Coccidiosis is the name of a disease that is caused by a coccidia infection. Coccidia are very small parasites that develop in the cells that line the intestine of an infected pig. Although there are several strains of coccidia that are commonly found in healthy swine, one strain has been associated with the disease. It causes a severe infection which, in turn, injures the intestine and causes scours. The infection is passed out in the manure and infects healthy piglets that eat or drink contaminated food or water.

The signs of the disease are similar to those in piglets that have scours caused by bacteria or a virus. The onset of the scours occurs when the piglets are from five to 10 days old, but they do not respond to treatment with the antibiotics that are usually used to treat scours caused by a bacterial infection.

Dr. Perry says coccidiosis can be controlled through the use of many of the managerial procedures that are recommended for controlling scours that result from other causes. One of the most important of these is good sanitation. Dr. Perry also says that medication can be used to both prevent and to treat the disease.

He advises anyone who suspects that his pigs may have coccidiosis to contact his veterinarian who will be able to provide information on diagnosing the disease, treating it and controlling it.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A FAIR RENTAL FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND

Determining a fair rental for agricultural land means both the landlord and the tenant will have to do a bit of homework.

Supply and demand frequently set the "going rate", but the price is often too high or too low. Just because there is little land available, which causes a higher rate, does not mean that a renter can afford to pay the high price.

There are three basic approaches that can be taken when calculating the rental rate of a piece of land. One can use the Owner's Cost Approach, the Tenant's Income Approach or a combination of both, which is called the Contribution Approach.

The Owner's Cost Approach

This approach determines the minimum amount of rent that is required to meet the expenses that the landowner will incur annually.

The Tenant's Income Approach

This approach determines the maximum cash rent that the tenant can afford to pay, based on prices and production costs and expected yields.

The Contributions Approach

This approach is a combination of the calculations that were done for the first two approaches. The returns from production are shared between the landowner and the tenant, and the sharing is done on a percentage basis, depending on the proportion paid by each party towards the crop.

Details on the three methods of working out a fair rental for agricultural land and worksheets are available in a pamphlet entitled "Leasing Cropland in Alberta" (Agdex 812-5). It can be obtained from district agriculturists and by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLOVER SEED EXPORTS BREAK PREVIOUS RECORDS

The 1982-83 crop year will probably be remembered as the year that Canada broke all previous clover seed export records.

Marcel Maisonneuve, chairman of the Alberta Forage Seed Council, reports that Canada exported a staggering 31 million kg of alsike, red clover and sweet clover seed to the United States in the 1982-83 crop year to supply that country's farmers who were participating in the Set-Aside and the Payment-in-Kind (PIK) Programs. Canada's normal export level is about 10 million kg. Mr. Maisonneuve points out that the exceptionally high 1982-83 export level disposed of Canada's burdensome seed carryovers that had been plaguing industry for the previous three years, and that clover seed prices increased steadily from their stagnant levels in the 1980-82 period until they peaked in the spring of 1983.

Dealer carryover stocks of single cut red clover and sweet clover, which were almost non-existent by the beginning of the 1983-84 crop year, have remained tight because the high level of clover seed production that was anticipated for 1983 did not materialize. It did not materialize because of dry weather early in the growing season and because of frosts in late August. Although the 1983 acreage of the three main clover crops was above the 1982 acreage, poor yields in the traditional clover-producing areas reduced supplies of high quality seed. According to Mr. Maisonneuve, there were some germination problems and a heavier than normal clean-out because of frost-damaged seed.

Single cut red clover prices started at 88 ¢ /kg in the 1983-84 crop year, dropped briefly during the early post-harvest period and then started to recover again at the beginning of this year. Sweet clover seed prices are presently around 40 ¢ /kg, and alsike clover seed prices are around 50 ¢ /kg, which is about what they were last fall. The yield of the 1983

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alsike crop was higher than expected, which, when coupled with sufficient dealer carryover stocks, has kept any price strength from developing. Mr. Maisonneuve says the long-term downward trend in alsike prices is expected to continue because of a decrease in European demand.

"Demand prospects for available supplies of both red and sweet clover," says Mr. Maisonneuve, "are good, but the volume of seed that is exported will definitely be lower than it was last year. Prices can be expected to remain firm with slight increases over the next few months."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING WARBLE INSPECTIONS

Although the number of warble infested slaughter cattle in Alberta dropped to only 4 per cent in 1983 from 14 per cent in 1980, warbles are still robbing Alberta farmers of $2 million a year. And they are costing the packing industry another million dollars in lost time, devalued hides and devalued carcasses.

It is for this reason that warble inspections are being continued again this spring in all cattle markets and terminal stockyards as part of the province's total warble infestation monitoring system.

Alberta Agriculture's livestock pest control specialist, Dr. Ali Khan, reminds cattlemen that the Agricultural Pest Act requires every cattle producer in Alberta to take the necessary measures to destroy warble grubs in their cattle every year. He says that all counties, municipal districts, improvement districts and special areas in the province are officially warble control areas. He also says that agricultural service board fieldmen and their appointed inspectors will be visiting farms that have a history of warble infestations towards the end of March and in April to advise and help their owners to organize a better warble control program.

The monitoring of warble infested carcasses will also continue at packing plants so that sources of infested cattle can be identified. The information that is collected will be used to help local agricultural service boards with their extension education programs and to enforce the Warble Control Program in Alberta.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROMISING NEW POTATO VARIETIES

It appears that Alberta home gardeners are growing a number of minor potato varieties that are causing problems.

In addition to Russet Burbank (netted gem), Norchip and Norland, which are the main commercial potato varieties growin in Alberta, home gardeners are growing Warba, Pontiac, Epicure, Banada and a number of other minor varieties which have either been grown in a particular area for decades or which have been "smuggled" into Alberta by people who have been visiting one of the European countries.

Stevan Molnar, head of vegetables and special crops at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says we are not recommending any of these minor varieties because they do not come under the province's Disease Testing Seed Potato Program and there have been disease problems with them. He also points out that potato breeders are continually searching for new varieties, which have more desirable characteristics than the old varieties, and that there are some very promising new ones which will be available to the general public in the very near future.

The varieties listed below have all performed very well in the Prairie Regional Potato Trials which are conducted every year under the Prairie Potato Council.

- Carlton - this is a new early white-skinned potato which matures as early as Warba or in time for the early market. The potatoes are medium-sized, smooth, shallow-eyed and oval in shape . The average yields of marketable potatoes during three years of testing at three locations on the Prairies exceeded those of Warba. The boiling quality of these potatoes is higher than that of Warba and their chipping quality is also good.

Carlton was named and released for propagation in 1982 and should be available to the public within the next year or two.

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Promising New Potato Varieties (cont'd)

- Atlantic - this is a creamy white-skinned potato which has a very light scaly net. The potatoes are round to oval in shape and have a clean white flesh that is low in glycoalkaloids. They have a high specific gravity and are excellent for boiling and chipping. They have consistently chipped even better than Norchip and they also have a longer storage period.

Atlantic was released by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1976 and has since been thoroughly tested and evaluated in Western Canada. It will probably be released in the next year or two.

- Yukon Gold - this is a slightly flat, finely flecked, yellowish-white-skinned potato with shallow pinkish eyes and a yellow flesh. It is medium early in maturity and the potatoes are very good for boiling, baking and French frying. During three years of trials at Brooks the variety yielded well and produced a crop with a high specific gravity that stored well.

Yukon Gold was developed in the potato breeding program at the University of Guelph, Ontario, and was licensed in 1980. It is the first Canadian yellow-fleshed potato and will, undoubtedly, be very popular with many people from central and western Europe. It is available to the public at the present time in only small quantities.

- Sangre - this is a medium-maturing high quality fresh market potato that is suited to the irrigated areas of Western Canada. The potatoes are deep red, thick skinned, oval to oblong in shape and have shallow eyes. They are slow emerging, but grow rapidly once they have emerged and produce a medium-sized vine. They are good for boiling and baking and produce a high percentage of marketable potatoes. Their pure white flesh does not darken after cooking, and they rarely have hollow hearts.

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Promising New Potato Varieties (cont'd)

Sangre was developed at Aberdeen in Idaho and was released in the United States in 1982. It has undergone extensive testing in Western Canada and should be released to the public in the near future.

Mr. Molnar says the four potato varieties described above are good examples of the many varieties that are in the advanced stages of yield, quality and storage evaluation tests. He believes that many of the old, and often outdated, potato varieties that are still being grown by many home gardeners in Alberta will not be needed for very much longer.

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February 27, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PROS AND CONS OF TREE WOUND DRESSINGS

The use of tree wound dressings has become a controversial subject in recent years with some arborists recommending their use and other arguing that they are ineffective.

Tree wound dressings are supposed to act as a temporary barrier against decay-causing organisms until a callus has had time to form over a pruning wound. Some tree dressings have been shown to encourage normal and even greater than normal callus growth, but evidence that they actually prevent decay has been contradictory, according to Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

He says much of the scientific research on tree wound dressings has been carried out on fruit trees where it has been found that wounds that are older than one month are no longer susceptible to invasion by silverleaf, which is the prevalent wound parasite. Hence, in the case of fruit trees, the use of a short-term dressing may well prevent silverleaf infection.

However, the beneficial effect of wound dressings on other trees is less clear. Dr. Howard reports that some North American research has shown that bitumen, glue and cycloheximide prevent decay in hardwood trees, but that other research has shown that bitumen, polyurethane and shellac do little to prevent decay, and that, in some cases, they actually stimulate decay.

Dr. Howard also reports that a recently published report from England indicates that the use of a sealant in combination with a fungicide had the greatest inhibiting effect against decay in wounds on poplar and beech trees. However, the authors pointed out that the beneficial or harmful effects of wound dressings varied greatly among the compounds they tested, and that no single product could be considered ideal. They felt that, at best, the most effective wound dressing provided only short-term protection.

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The Pros And Cons Of Tree Wound Dressings (cont'd)

"In the case of fruit trees", says Dr. Howard, "it can be concluded that a wound dressing can confer short-term protection against silverleaf, providing that the product is not harmful to the tree, but that the usefulness of wound dressings for other trees is questionable."

He also says that if a particular wound dressing appears to have prevented decay in the past or to have provided a beneficial cosmetic effect on a particular tree species, its use can be safely continued. However, because different tree species may respond differently to a particular wound dressing, he advises using a new product on a trial basis rather than for large-scale treatment.

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February 27, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEST WARS

Pest Wars is a 30-minute television program that tells the story of the people who are on the front lines in that war – the farmers. The program will be aired across Alberta during Agriculture Week, March 4 - 11.

Pest Wars identifies some of the common insects, weeds and diseases that confront farmers. And it shows how farmers take an integrated approach to control these pests, which cost millions of dollars each year in lost food production. Cultivation, rotation, resistant crop varieties, quarantine, biological control and pesticides are all part of the farmer's arsenal as he battles these pests. And we find out that an integrated system is necessary if we are to keep one step ahead of the pests without becoming too dependent on pesticides.

Pest Wars concludes that food producers can claim more victories than defeats in this war. How they are winning it is one of the great success stories of the 20th century.

Pest Wars will be aired as follows:

Edmonton	CBXT	Sunday	–	March 4	3:30 p.m.
Calgary	CBRT	Sunday	–	March 4	3:30 p.m.
Red Deer	CKRD	Monday	–	March 5	7:30 p.m.
Medicine Hat	CHAT	Monday	–	March 5	7:30 p.m.
Lloydminster	CKSA	Monday	–	March 5	7:30 p.m.
Lethbridge	CFAC	Friday	–	March 9	10:30 p.m.

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February 27, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT PRODUCTION SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED AT AG-EXPO

A wheat production symposium, which will feature the results obtained from a production survey of many successful wheat farmers in southern Alberta, will be held on the top floor of the grandstand at Ag-Expo in Lethbridge from 1:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on March 2.

The symposium is designed to outline the cultural practices that give top yields and top quality wheat while, at the same time, keeping a weather eye on costs. Both dryland and irrigation practices will be discussed, and there will be special emphasis on spring, utility, soft white, durum and winter wheats. The symposium will also cover such things as midge, a wheat insect, and new wheat varieties like HY320 as they relate to conditions in southern Alberta.

Further information on the wheat production symposium can be obtained from Blair Shaw, Regional Plant Industry Supervisor, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Centre, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4C7 (Telephone: 329-5124).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED FAIR '84 IN NORTHEASTERN ALBERTA

Alberta Agriculture and a number of agri-business companies are sponsoring Weed Fair '84 at five locations in northeastern Alberta from March 12 to March 16.

The first location will be the Chateau Dining Hall in Vegreville on March 12. The speakers will be Neil Blue, Alberta Agriculture, Vermilion, whose topic will be the "Economics of Fertilizer Use", and Dr. John O'Donovan, Environmental Centre, Vegreville, whose topic will be the "Cost of Weeds".

The second location will be the Provost Community Hall in Provost on March 13. The speakers will be Ellis Treffry, Alberta Agricultre, Vermilion, who will speak about "Weed Problems and Control Measures", and an Alberta Agriculture engineer who will discuss "Spraying Equipment".

The third location will be the Elks Hall in Vermilion on March 14. The speakers will be Dr. Ieuan Evans, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton, who will talk about "Diseases of Canola and Cereals", and Ellis Treffry who will discuss "New Varieties of Canola and Cereals".

The fourth location will be RCMP Hall in Glendon on March 15. The speakers will be Ellis Treffry whose topic will be "Perennial Weed Control", and Dr. Moe Hussain, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton, and Colleen Pierce, district home economist, Bonnyville, who will both talk about "Pesticide Safety".

The fifth location will be the Centennial Hall in Two Hills on March 16. The speakers will be Michael Dolinski, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton, who will discuss "Insect Control", and Terry Footz, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton, who will talk about "Spraying Equipment".

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Weed Fair '84 in Northeastern Alberta (cont'd)

There is no registration fee and lunch will be provided. All the fairs will start with registration and coffee at 9:30 a.m. and there will be product booths for participants to visit.

General information on Weed Fair '84 can be obtained from George Rock, district agriculturist at Vermilion who has coordinated the events. His telephone number is 853-2811. For information on a specific fair, contact the local district agriculturist.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTED TO VEGREVILLE

Ralph Berkan, Alberta Agriculture's regional director for northeastern Alberta, has announced the appointment of Jim Unterschultz to the position of co-district agriculturist at the Vegreville district office. His appointment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of senior district agriculturist, Jerry Jones, in 1983.

Mr. Unterschultz is a native of the Fort Saskatchewan area. He graduated with distinction from the University of Alberta in 1980 with a B.S.A. (General Agriculture).

He took his district agriculturist training in Claresholm and transferred to Wainwright in 1981 where he worked with senior district agriculturist, Brian Wilson, until his present appointment.

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SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIST APPOINTED

John Hermans, section head in Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch, has announced the appointment of Sydney Abday to the position of soil and water conservation technologist.

Mr. Abday will assist Douwe Vanderwel, soil and water conservation engineer, in the design and coordination of water erosion control projects under the Soil Conservation Area Program (SCAP). He will also be involved in the design, establishment and monitoring of field trials and demonstrations related to on-farm water management.

In the summers of 1978 and 1979, he performed various duties related to soil research in Lethbridge for Agriculture Canada's soil science section. From 1980 to 1981 he worked for the forest land use branch of the Alberta Forestry Service in Edmonton. And from 1981 until his present appointment, he has been employed as a project technologist by Alberta Environment in Edmonton. In this position he was responsible for planning and implementing site development and water management projects.

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AGRI-NEWS

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March 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IN LEDUC NOW IN OPERATION

The director of Alberta Agriculture's marketing services division, Dennis Glover, has announced that the construction of the Food Processing Development Centre in Leduc is nearing completion and that staff have now been transferred to the new facility. It is expected to be officially opened in the early summer.

Funded by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund at a cost of $8.6 million, Mr. Glover says the centre is a major addition to the department in terms of the development of the province's food processing industry. It is designed to respond to requests from agricultural commodity groups such as those involved with beef, pork and dairy products and with grains, oilseeds, etc., and it will provide food processors with a facility where they can develop and test their products under Alberta conditions.

Mr. Glover points out that the development of new products and the adoption of new technology will, in addition to maximizing the value-added aspects of agricultural commodities, allow processors to compete in the growing international market for processed food products.

The staff members who are currently operating out of Leduc and reporting to Dr. W. Ballantyne, head of the agricultural processing development branch are: Dave Schroder, supervisor, product development; Peter Davies, supervisor, processing development; Peggy Marce, laboratory scientist; and Murray Fierheller, food scientist.

The Food Processing Development Centre is located at 6309-45 Street, Leduc, Alberta, T9E 2Y7 and the telephone number is 986-4793.

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March 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROOT MAGGOT SURVEY OF CANOLA CROPS

Results of a three-year survey, carried out by the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, show that canola crops in northwestern Alberta suffered the highest level of root maggot infestation during that period of anywhere in the province.

Dr. H.J. Liu, who was in charge of the survey, says it was set up in 1981 to determine the incidence of root maggots in Alberta canola crops and to assess the damage they are doing to these crops. Over the past few years farmers have been complaining about root maggots attacking the roots of canola crops.

Dr. Liu reports that an average of 64 per cent of the plants in canola crops in northwestern Alberta were attacked by root maggots last year. This compares with 34 per cent in 1982 and 75 per cent in 1981. She blames the heavy rains during the period the flies were laying their eggs and the maggots were developing for the rise in last year's level of infestation compared with the 1982 level. Although much of the damage in 1982 was confined to the surface of the canola plants roots, and was probably of little consequence, the survey showed that in 1981 the roots of half the injured plants had been severely tunnelled and that in 1983 a third of the injured plants had been severely tunnelled.

Dr. Liu points out that root maggots predominate in northwestern Alberta because they develop best under cool, moist field conditions. However, even in that area their numbers fluctuate from one year to another and from one locality to another in relation to the temperature and moisture conditions that prevail in a particular year.

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Root Maggot Survey Of Canola Crops (cont'd)

The survey showed that in the Peace River region as a whole, 25 per cent of the plants per crop were attacked by root maggots in 1983 compared with 15 per cent in 1982 and 31 per cent in 1981. The level of infestation increased in 1983 compared with 1982 because of the higher rainfall. Dr. Liu points out that even during a generally dry growing season, a large proportion of canola plants can be attacked in localized areas if the rainfall is high in those areas.

The survey also showed that canola crops in eastern and southern Alberta, the traditionally drier region of the province, suffered the least amount of maggot damage during the three-year survey.

The Alberta Environmental Centre is presently studying the impact that root maggot tunnelling has on the growth and development of canola plants. Anyone who would like further information on the subject should contact Dr. H.J. Liu, Alberta Environmental Centre, P.O. Bag 4000, Vegreville, Alberta, TOB 4LO (Telephone 632-6761).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE SEED MIXTURES

Many farmers who are looking for the least expensive and the simplest way of buying and planting forage seed will purchase a Canada No.2 mixture. But are they really saving money and time?

According to Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of forage crops, Myron Bjorge, the answer is no! He points out that Canada No.2 forage seed mixtures are only slightly less expensive than better quality mixtures and than mixtures made up by farmers who use high quality individual species. Also, there are many unknowns and problems associated with their use.

Canada No.2 seed, like Canada No.1 seed, comes from an unknown origin. It may have been produced from certified seed, from other commercial seed or from seed that was of a higher genetic grade, but which contained too many weed seeds to qualify for the higher grade. It may also have originated from demoted seed of an unpopular forage variety.

The purity standards, which include weed content, are much lower for forage seed mixtures than they are for non-mixtures. A mixture is more likely to be near the minimum quality required for a particular grade than a non-mixture because of the common practice of blending lower grade seed, and even reject seed, into mixtures.

A Canada No.2 mixture of timothy and red clover could, for example, contain 10 primary weed seeds, 30 primary plus secondary weed seeds and a total of 200 weed seeds per 25 g (a little less than an ounce). On the other hand, Canada No.2 timothy and Canada No.2 red clover, when sold separately, are allowed to contain only five primary weed seeds, 15 primary plus secondary weed seeds and a total of 150 weed seeds per 25 g. Canada No.1 and Certified No.1 timothy and red clover seed can contain no primary weed seeds, five secondary weed seeds and a total of 75 weed seeds per 25 g.

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Forage Seed Mixtures (cont'd)

Also, the minimum germination percentage for a Canada No.2 mixture is lower than that for a Canada No.2 non-mixture. For example, the minimum germination percentage of a Canada No.2 mixture of timothy and red clover is 65, while the minimum germination percentage for each variety alone is 70. The germination percentage for Canada No.1 and Certified No.1 seed that is sold separately is 80.

Other problems can also occur in forage seed mixtures. For example, the legume seeds in the mixture have often not been inoculated, and it is not practical to do this after they have been mixed. Also the small seeds in a mixture are likely to settle out, which will result in an uneven stand. Another problem is that forage seed mixtures usually contain a number of different species, and they frequently contain some species that are not adapted for specific field conditions or for a specific use. The result is a lower performance compared with that obtained from a mixture which contains only two or three suitable species.

Mr. Bjorge offers the following tips as a guide to purchasing forage seed.

- Make up your own forage mixture and keep it simple. Choose species and varieties that are adapted to the specific conditions in the field in which they will be planted as well as to the use for which the crop is intended.

- Stick inoculants on the seed of each legume species before mixing this seed. Keep the inoculant in the refrigerator and use it just before the seed is to be planted.

- Mix the seed together in the way that will make the most efficient use of your seeding equipment. In other words, if your seed drill has two boxes, mix the small seeds together and mix the large seeds together and put them in separate boxes.

Mr. Bjorge says the above guidelines will improve the performance of a newly seeded forage stand, and that the purchase of good seed is always a good deal!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHEMICAL DAMAGE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE

A large number of the submissions received last year by the Alberta Environmental Centre's (AEC) chemical damage diagnostic service in Vegreville were found to have been damaged by aerial spray drift from some of the most commonly used herbicides in Alberta.

According to the head of the centre's herbicides section, Dr. Paul Sharma, 2,4-D, MCPA and Banvel were the main herbicides that were responsible for extensive damage to such non-target plant species as canola, vegetable crops and shelterbelt trees. He says that the excessively wet weather that prevailed during the 1983 spraying season was partly to blame for the problem because it compelled many farmers to rely on aerial spraying.

To prevent desirable plants from being damaged, he recommends that applicators read the label on the product they are using and follow the directions carefully; avoid spraying on a windy day to prevent vapor and/or spray drift; adjust and calibrate their application equipment carefully (faulty nozzles, an inadequate pressure or an inadequate volume of water can cause crop damage); avoid using incompatible pesticide mixtures; spray at the proper stages of weed and crop growth and watch the weather. Adverse weather conditions increase the chances of crop injury.

Last year the chemical damage diagnostic service received 388 submissions, consisting of 835 plant, soil and water specimens that were suspected of having suffered from chemical damage or, in the case of the soil and water, of containing a herbicide residue. Forty-nine per cent of the submissions were from farmers, and the remainder came from greenhouse operators and homeowners. A few came from other provinces.

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Chemical Damage Diagnostic Service (cont'd)

Dr. Sharma says drift from such growth hormone-type herbicides as 2,4-D, MCPA and Banvel were responsible for the damage diagnosed in almost 40 per cent of the submissions. The wild oat herbicides Avadex, Treflan, Hoegrass, Carbyne, Avenge and Mataven were responsible for the damage to only about 10 per cent of the submissions. And the damage to the remaining 50 per cent was related to soil sterilants (12%), Tordon (13%) other herbicides (6%) and other causes (19%).

Chemical diagnosis at AEC is conducted through visual examinations and bioassay (growing indicator plants sensitive to specific herbicides) and/or instrumental analysis.

The chemical damage diagnostic service was set up in 1976 to help farmers, greenhouse operators, homeowners, etc. whose crops or plants are accidentally damaged by a third party. A person who suspects that his crop or plants have sustained herbicide injury contacts his district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman who goes to the site and records his observations on a case history sheet, which is a basic part of the diagnostic procedure. He and the owner of the crop or plants then take representative samples from the affected and unaffected areas, noting any unusual characteristics.

Upon completion of the field investigation, the plant specimens and/or soil samples and the report are sent to the Alberta Environmental Centre's weed science group. Reports are later sent to the owner and the person who did the field investigating.

Dr. Sharma emphasizes that the aim of the chemical damage diagnostic service is to determine the cause of damage; not to assess the extent of damage or to attach blame.

Further information on the service can be obtained from Dr. Paul Sharma, Head of the Herbicides Section, Alberta Environmental Centre, Bag Service 4000, Vegreville, Alberta, TOB 4LO (Telephone: 632-6761).

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March 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CANOLA GROWERS URGED TO TREAT SEED

All canola growers in Alberta are strongly advised to treat their seed with a fungicide that contains either benomyl or carbathiin to prevent blackleg and with an insecticide to control flea beetles.

The advice comes from Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of plant pathology, Dr. Ieuan Evans, who reports that blackleg has caused crop losses ranging from 10 to 25 per cent of the expected yield in some parts of Saskatchewan, and that it was recorded in Alberta for the first time last summer.

The destructive fungus which causes blackleg was found in a canola crop near Vermilion. When a sample of the seed that had been used to plant the crop was tested at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, it was found to contain two per cent of blackleg-infected seeds. However, because it had been treated with a recommended fungicide before it was planted, no diseased seeds were found in the new crop. Dr. Prem Kharbanda of the environmental centre believes that the treatment reduced the disease's potential to spread to the seed pods. When canola has a high incidence of blackleg, the stems, leaves and seed pods all become infected.

In the case of the Vermilion crop, it is felt that the original seed probably came from an area in Saskatchewan where there was a high incidence of blackleg.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTROLLING COCCIDIAL SCOURS IN BABY PIGS

It is possible through a well organized sanitary program to greatly reduce the losses that can result from piglet diarrhea that is caused by coccidial parasites.

According to Alberta Agriculture's veterinary pathologist, Dr. Dale Armstrong, the diarrhea that is caused by these parasites is a yellowish color, noted in piglets that are from five to 14 days old, and does not respond to antibiotics. He says the baby pigs can pick up the coccidia from pens which have been contaminated by previous litters as well as from neighboring litters in the farrowing barn. Also, the sow may transmit the condition to her litter if she has an active infection.

Dr. Armstrong also says that the complete elimination of the coccidia is very difficult and could probably only be achieved by fumigating the barn and replacing an infected herd by uninfected animals. However, death losses in baby pigs can be kept to a low level by vigorously cleaning the barn and by treating the sows.

Here is how one hog producer who had been experiencing a 10 to 20 per cent death loss and reduced weight gains successfully coped with his problem. He initiated a sanitation program, which entailed steam-cleaning his farrowing barns and disinfecting them with a phenol compound, such as Creoline, to destroy the eggs.

He also thoroughly scrubbed his sows before they were put into the farrowing crates, and he treated them with amprolium for a week before they farrowed and for two weeks after they had farrowed.

Dr. Armstrong says an alternative to steam-cleaning would be to scrub out the pens with caustic soda before they are disinfected with a phenol compound. He warns though, that care must be taken when using caustic soda to prevent eye and skin injuries.

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Controlling Coccidial Scours In Baby Pigs (cont'd)

After 10 months of the above sanitary procedures a low level of infection still persisted, but the program prevented a recurrence of coccidial scours. As Dr. Armstrong points out, a hog producer can tolerate a low level of infection on his premises as long as he has a good sanitation program in place.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1984 LAND CLEARING AND BREAKING RATES

The following data on land clearing and breaking rates are based on a survey that was conducted by Alberta Agriculture in January, 1984. Approximately sixty contacts were made throughout the province, and the results were tabulated on a cost per acre basis.

		Cost Per Acre	
Region	Operation	Range	Most Common
South	Cutting, piling and other cat work	$70-$150	$90-$120
	Discing	$30-$60	$40-$45
	Plowing	$20-$30	$25
	Root Raking	$10-$15	$10
Central	Cutting, piling and other cat work	$70-$160	$100-$130
	Discing	$30-$50	$35-$45
	Plowing	$30-$40	$35
North	Cutting, piling and other cat work	$75-$150	$100-$135
	Discing	$30-$65	$40-$45
	Plowing	$30-$40	$35
	Root Raking	$10-$15	$10

The south region consists of the area from Olds south to the American border, while the central region consists of the area from Olds north to Edmonton. The north region is the area north of Edmonton and includes the Peace River region.

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1984 Land Clearing And Breaking Rates (cont'd)

Diana Rung of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch points out that custom rates for land clearing and breaking are fairly uniform throughout the province, but that they can vary according to the type of bush, the terrain and the type of equipment used. She says that, because of the scarcity of work this year, many custom operators are charging close to the same rates as last year and that they seem to be more willing to travel around the province. Only a few custom operators do all phases of land clearing and breaking. Most specialize in only one or two operations.

The above information will be used to update the publication "Land Clearing and Breaking Equipment Costs" (Agdex 825-8) which will be completed this spring.

Information on all the main custom operation charges can be obtained from district agriculturists, Alberta Agriculuture's statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4018) or the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO (556-4247).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POTATO OUTLOOK

Alberta potato prices are expected to remain strong throughout the remainder of the present crop year.

Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, Fred Boyce, reports that the supply of storage potatoes is well below that of the same time last year in all areas of the province, and that the demand for seed, table and processing potatoes is very good. Processing potato contracts for the new crop are expected to be unchanged to slightly higher than last year.

Mr. Boyce says the export market for Canadian seed potatoes has improved because of the European shortfall, which will be particularly beneficial to the Maritime provinces. However, Alberta's seed potato exports to the United States are also expected to increase as a result of their favorable performance in American seed trials.

The American winter potato crop is forecast to be nearly 25 per cent greater than that of a year ago, and the spring crop acreage is also expected to increase. If the American spring and summer crops are well above those of last year in terms of acreage and yields, prices will probably decline during the summer, Mr. Boyce says. In the meantime, increased production from the new crop in the United States may place additional pressure on Canadian prices as the spring approaches.

Last year's potato production in Alberta is estimated at 4.4 million hundredweight, up by 4 per cent compared with 1982. A slightly higher acreage and better yields accounted for this boost in output. According to Mr. Boyce, potato disappearance in the province has been running ahead of last year's level because of the good movement of potatoes in the local fresh and processing markets as well as because of improved out-of-province shipments.

The above article is based on information that was available in February, 1984.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEWARE OF WIND EROSION

by John C. Hermans
Section Head, Conservation and Development Branch, Alberta Agriculture

As spring approaches and farmers return to the land, we are reminded that, during the springs of 1981 and 1982, areas of central and southern Alberta experienced some of the worst wind erosion since the "Dirty Thirties". Most of it was associated with summer fallowed fields, particularly those that had been overworked to keep them "black". And the potential for wind erosion this year is just as serious. Dry soil conditions and very little snow cover have left our soils extremely vulnerable to erosion.

With the approach of spring work, there are important factors that should be considered. One is that cultivating the land too far ahead of seeding may increase the potential for erosion and result in a needless loss of moisture. Some of the most erosive winds in central and southern Alberta occur in April and May. Another factor is that seedbeds should be prepared with implements that conserve as much crop residue as possible. A blade or wide sweep cultivator will leave most of the straw and stubble on the surface to protect the soil, while a double disc will bury more residue, pulverize the soil and leave it exposed to erosion.

The following emergency measures are recommended if drifting should start.

- Watch fields closely for spots that are prone to drifting, i.e. focal points. If the problem can be stopped there, it will prevent the drifting from spreading over the whole field. Potential trouble spots can be covered with a good layer of manure now.
- Chisel heavier textured or slightly frozen soils at right angles to the prevailing winds at a spacing of two to three feet to bring up clods.
- Ridge sandy and dry soils at right angles to the prevailing winds. To do this use lister shovels or increase the pitch on conventional shovels at two to three foot spacings.

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Beware Of Wind Erosion (cont'd)

- Place straw bales in parallel rows about 30 feet apart. This practice should minimize erosion damage.

Additional information on emergency controls is available in the publication, "Wind Erosion and Its Control", (Agdex 573-4) or from your district agriculturist, agricultural fieldman or a member of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

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March 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA DAIRY SEMINAR

Both Canadian and American speakers who are recognized authorities in their fields will be featured at the second Alberta Dairy Seminar, scheduled to take place at the Banff Spring Hotel in Banff from April 3 - 6.

Last year's seminar was also held in Banff and proved so popular that it was decided to make it an annual event. It was attended by about 150 dairymen, agribusiness representatives and extension specialists.

One, of the speakers at this year's seminar, Neal Jorgensen, is a professor in the Dairy Science Department at the University of Wisconsin. His major research has been in forage utilization and calcium and vitamin D metabolism as it relates to milk fever. He travels widely in the United States and abroad and will be going to New Zealand and Australia after he leaves Banff.

Bill Thomas is a professor of Animal Science at Michigan State University. He has been heavily involved in extension work for the last six years, while continuing to teach and to do research, and he was named the "Outstanding Dairy Specialist" in 1982 by the dairy extension staff. His research is in the area of silage and silage additives, hay preservation and grain feeding.

Karl Winter is a cattle nutritionist and livestock program leader with Agriculture Canada's research station in Charlottown, P.E.I. His research interests are in the area of calf nutrition, trace minerals and feeding dairy-beef steers. He has published a number of papers on calf nutrition.

Other speakers will include: Brenda DeWitt, producer, Alberta; Morley Douglas, assistant deputy minister, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton; Len Grad, producer, Alberta;

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Alberta Dairy Seminar (cont'd)

Darrell Hein, producer, Alberta; John Kennelly, Department of Animal Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton; Gary Mathison, Department of Animal Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton; Ken Nichol, producer, Alberta; and Bob Westra, Westra-Danen Associates, Edmonton.

The program will be divided into nine sessions: "Energy and the Dairy Cow"; "Forage Quality"; "Electronics in the Dairy Operation"; "Replacement Heifer Management"; "The Dry Cow"; "Select-a-Session"; "Dairy Policy in Alberta – Where Are We Going"; "The Role of Alberta Agriculture"; and "Dairy Research – Challenge for the Producer". The program will also include panel discussions, and there will also be ample opportunity for informal discussions with peers and resource personnel.

The registration fee before March 16 will be $95 per person or $150 per couple. After March 16 it will be $105 per person or $175 per couple.

The co-operating agencies are: The University of Alberta; Alberta Agriculture; the Alberta Milk Producers' Association and the Alberta Dairymen's Association.

More detailed information on the Alberta Dairy Seminar can be obtained from Val Smyth at 432-2406 in Edmonton. Anyone who would like to register by telephone should call 432-3029.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FICTION OR FACT?

Because we, as consumers, are continually bombarded by messages about food, it is important to be able to identify what is fiction and what is fact.

The following examples of fiction and fact were provided by the committee for Alberta's Nutrition Month, which is March, and Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Airdrie, Debbie Brekke.

- Fiction: Bread sold as brown bread is the same as that sold as whole wheat bread.

- Fact: At least 60 per cent of the flour used in whole wheat bread must be whole wheat flour. The remaining 40 per cent is usually enriched white flour. However, brown bread is either made with white flour that is colored with molasses or carmel or it contains less than 60 per cent whole wheat flour.

- Fiction: Raw sugar and honey are more nutritious than white sugar.

- Fact: Raw sugar, honey and white sugar are all different forms of the same product. They are treated equally by the body's digestive system, and each has basically the same levels of carbohydrates and other nutrients.

- Fiction: Grapefruit and grapefruit juice melt away fat.

- Fact: Grapefruit is a member of the fruits and vegetable group in the Canada Food Guide and is a nutritious, low calorie food that supplies vitamin C. No food including grapefruit, has the unique ability to melt away fat.

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AGRI-NEWS

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March 12, 1984

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March 12, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IBR AND THE BEEF COW HERD

Cattlemen who have not vaccinated their breeding herds against infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, also called IBR and red nose, and cattlemen who have not vaccinated their breeding herds for several years, are advised to contact their veterinarian regarding general vaccination recommendations and information on long-term vaccination programs.

Dr. G.A. Chalmers of Alberta Agriculture's regional veterinary laboratory in Lethbridge points out that the potentially devastating effects of the IBR virus can be prevented in beef brood cows by vaccination. He also points out that there are two types of vaccines on the market, both of which contain live viruses. The injectable type is given intramuscularly and can only be given during the period between calving and re-breeding. Dr. Chalmers stresses that the injectible vaccine must never be given to a pregnant cow because it is capable of causing an abortion. The other vaccine is an intranasal type, and it can be given at anytime to both pregnant and non-pregnant cows.

IBR is caused by a virus that affects the upper respiratory tract (nasal passages and trachea) of cattle. In feedlot cattle it causes fever, a harsh cough, severe reddening of the nostrils, a watery discharge from the nose and eyes and lack of appetite. However, in brood cows there are usually few, if any, of these signs. The first indication of trouble usually comes when the cows start to abort their calves.

According to Dr. Chalmers, abortions are most common in unvaccinated cattle that are from six to eight months pregnant, and the abortions start occurring a few weeks after the animals have been exposed to the IBR virus.

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IBR And The Beef Cow Herd (cont'd)

He says the past history of IBR in Alberta indicates that it can cause a high level of abortion when cows that were not vaccinated are exposed to the field strains of the virus. He also says that there have been reports from some areas in North America of beef cows, which had been vaccinated, aborting their calves three or more years later. It is because of these reports that it is felt it may be necessary, in some cases, to vaccinate beef brood cows every two years.

Dr. Chalmers says IBR-infected feeder cattle that are separated from a beef cow herd by only a corral fence are one of the most common sources of infection for pregnant cows.

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March 12, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY OUTLOOK

Alberta and most of the other provinces should have no difficulty in filling their Market Share Quota (MSQ) allocation this dairy year, and some provinces may have over-quota problems.

Dave Hope, dairy and poultry analyst with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, reports that milk production in Canada has continued to increase on a seasonally adjusted basis since last September. And he expects production to be very seasonal this year with a lot of the milk being produced in the May-July period.

Butter stocks remain a concern even though they are down at the present time. However, with a large amount of the annual milk production still to come, Mr. Hope expects a lot of milk to be diverted for butter production late in the dairy year. He points out this year's low butter stocks, compared with those of last year, are more a function of the difference in seasonal production patterns between the two dairy years than an increase in demand. A higher than normal percentage of annual production was recorded in the first half of the 1982-83 dairy year, while the opposite is expected this year.

The federal six and five restraint program, which has been in operation for the past two years, has had a marginal effect on the prices received by Canadian dairy farmers whose production costs rose moderately. It was expected that dairy farmers would be free of this program on April 1, this year, but the federal government announced in its recent budget that regulated agency prices will be controlled at a maximum increase of 4 per cent for another year. Mr. Hope believes that this regulation will apply to the support prices of both butter and skim milk powder, and, thereby, put the lid on industrial milk price increases. He says the dairy industry feels that this is unfair, and he expects negotiations to be initiated between dairy producer groups and the federal government.

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Dairy Outlook (cont'd)

Mr. Hope sees little chance of a reduction in either the in-quota or the above-quota levies as long as world prices remain depressed. Because British Columbia milk producers no longer contribute levies to the Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC), the other provinces have had to make up B.C.'s share by contributing $4.5 million. So far the federal government has contributed the money it would have sent to B.C. to the CDC in the form of a subsidy. But, according to Mr. Hope, there is no guarantee that this practice will be continued. If it is not, the levies paid by the participating provinces will rise, he says. He also says that little progress has been made in negotiations aimed at bringing B.C. back into the national program.

The above article is based on information that was available in February, 1984.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOINT VENTURES

Using a crescent wrench to hammer nails is not only frustrating but very inefficient, and furthermore, the wrench soon becomes useless for its intended purpose. Unfortunately, according to Merle Good of Alberta Agriculture's farm business branch, the same analogy can be applied to many of the business arrangements entered into by Alberta farmers.

He says the problem stems from the fact that farmers who are "working together" often classify themselves as partners without realizing the legal and tax implications of such an association. The majority of these so-called "partnerships", according to Mr. Good, are really no more than a formalized business arrangement or joint venture, whereby two or more parties contribute the use of their assets, labor and management to a specific business undertaking in exchange for a percentage of the income it earns.

Mr. Good says it is most important that a farmer define the type of business arrangement he is involved in. Why? Because an improper business arrangement, like the crescent wrench, will lead to frustration, and it may even prove disastrous for the person's business and estate planning goals.

For instance, how many people realize that if their business is classified as a partnership, they may no longer own their land, buildings, machinery or livestock? Instead they may own only a piece of paper called a "partnership interest". "Unfortunately", says Mr. Good, "the farmers who consult a qualified accountant and/or lawyer before entering into a business arrangement, so that they understand what they are doing, are very much in the minority.

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Joint Ventures (cont'd)

And how many farmers really understand the implications of a joint venture agreement? A joint venture is a formal business arrangement; it is not a business entity like a partnership or a corporation. In a joint venture each individual retains ownership of his or her assets and simply contributes their use to the joint venture. Although co-ownership of property does not in itself contravene the fundamental structure of a joint venture, all the costs associated with ownership, such as the land tax, debt payments and the capital cost allowance, are the responsibility of the individual; not of the joint venture. In other words, "What the person thinks he owns, he actually does own", says Mr. Good, which is a comforting thought in today's complex business world.

One of the advantages of a joint venture agreement, according to Mr. Good, is that the provisions in the sections of the Income Tax Act that apply, for example, to the formation and dissolution of partnerships and corporations can be avoided in this type of business arrangement. Another advantage is that a farmer who owns land outside his company and who enters into a joint venture with the company can take advantage of the rollover provision in the Income Tax Act. It allows the property to be handed down to the children on a tax deferred basis. This could not be done by a farmer who rented his land to his company on a cash or crop share basis. Mr. Good says it is concern over maintaining or establishing an active farming status in the eyes of Revenue Canada that has led to a growing interest in joint venture agreements.

Each party to such an agreement is considered to have received his share of the farm's gross sales and related expenses in the same way as he would if he were farming the land himself. This means that the various tax strategies that are available to farmers can be applied to his net income. And the fact that he can claim the capital cost allowance on depreciable assets allows him greater flexibility than he would have as a member of a partnership.

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Joint Ventures (cont'd)

Probably the main disadvantage of a joint venture agreement is that it does not permit the transfer of ownership equity that is in the joint venture as is commonly done in a father-son partnership or in a corporation. However, assets can still be transferred, but only through a sale and/or gift from a parent to child. It is important to remember when this is done, control in the joint venture is also transferred to the next generation.

Hence, unlike a partnership or a corporation, there is no opportunity in a joint venture agreement to effect an estate freeze. The most common type of estate freeze, according to Mr. Merle Good, would be where a farmer retains the title and control of the property, but transfers all or some of the property's future growth value to his children who are partners or shareholders, depending upon the agreement.

'Since joint ventures and partnerships are closely related, it is imperative", says Mr. Good, " that the fundamental principles of a joint venture agreement be thoroughly understood and adhered to. A common mistake that farmers make is to form a joint venture and then act as if it were a partnership by filing their income tax return on that basis. An example would be the claiming of the capital cost allowance deduction within a joint venture before the taxable income has been distributed. Such an error could indicate to Revenue Canada that the business arrangement is in fact a partnership.

Mr. Good has written a publication, entitled "Joint Ventures" (Agdex 812-6) to help farmers to understand joint ventures by explaining such things as the factors to consider when forming a joint venture, the structure, taxation and dissolution of a joint venture, how to distinguish between a joint venture and a partnership, etc. The publication can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONCERN ABOUT HERBICIDE APPLICATION EQUIPMENT PROMOTIONS

Farmers are particularly vulnerable to a good sales pitch in economic times like these, and especially when they are accompanied by relatively high farm input costs.

Alberta Agriculture's herbicide application equipment specialist, Terry Footz, is concerned about herbicide sprayers that are currently being promoted in the province on the basis that recommended water volumes can be drastically reduced and that recommended herbicide rates can be reduced by 50 per cent or more.

Mr. Footz points out that although testimonials are being used, to a large extent, to promote the sprayers, very little, if any, qualified testing information on the performance of herbicides commonly used in Western Canada is available.

He also points out that the department cannot give its stamp of approval to herbicide application equipment until it and/or the technology involved have been tested by qualified research personnel.

It is also important to remember", says Mr. Footz, "that if the method of applying herbicides or the rates that are used by a farmer do not correspond with those recommended on the product label, the manufacturer's guarantee becomes null and void."

Anyone who has any questions regarding herbicide application equipment should consult his district agriculturist.

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ALBERTA NURSERY TRADES MARKETING STUDY

Alberta Agriculture's market development division and the Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA) are funding a one-year marketing study for the province's nursery trade industry.

It is designed to determine new markets both inside and outside Alberta and to investigate the feasibility of entering those markets. It will also look into the current production situation, buyer attitudes and competitors as well as product differentiation, promotion and quality control. It will recommend ways of increasing sales of Alberta nursery stock by replacing imports, increasing consumer demand and exporting to places that have a similar climate.

The steering committee that has been set up includes: Henry Heuver, president of the Alberta Foothills Nurseries (chairman); Garry Johnson, executive director of LANTA; Hans Bron, president of Greenview Nurseries Ltd.; Brendan Casement, research horticulturist, ornamentals, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks; Susan Kitchen; market development director, Alberta Agriculture; and Chris Campbell, horticulture consultant, Agri-Food Development, Alberta Agriculture.

Mr. Heuver feels that effective marketing strategies are needed for Alberta's nursery trade industry in this time of recession because it can no longer rely on a buoyant housing market to maintain demand.

Further information on the marketing study can be obtained from Henry Heuver, Foothills Nurseries, 2626 - 48 Street S.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2B 1M4 (Telephone: 272-3200) or from Chris Campbell, Alberta Agriculture, 112-16 Avenue N.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2E 1J5 (Telephone: 297-8452).

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GROWING PULSE CROPS IN ALBERTA

Alberta's pulse crop (dry beans, dry peas, lentils and faba beans) production has been increasing steadily over the last 10 years.

Most of the dry beans are exported for canning and packaging, while the dry peas are exported or used by the Canadian pea soup industry. The lentils are mostly exported. Although faba beans are valued as a food product in many countries, especially Egypt, they also make excellent silage and protein supplements.

Alberta's pulse crops were worth approximately $9.5 million to the economy in 1982, and they accounted for about 10 per cent of the total value of these crops in Western Canada.

Pulse crops are also excellent for growing in rotation with cereals because the pulses are able to produce their own nitrogen through a process known as nitrogen fixation that takes place in their root nodules.

Alberta's long summer days and moderatly dry climate are ideal for the production of high quality pulse crops. Field beans and faba beans are grown in the very productive irrigated areas in the south of the province, while lentils are grown in the brown and dark brown soil zones and in the black soil zones under a higher level of management. Field peas and faba beans are both grown in the black soil zones.

Scientists are continually searching for more efficient ways to plant, cultivate, harvest and use pulse crops. The goal of this research is to develop high-yielding and high quality pulse crops that are suited to local soil and climatic conditions. The scientists are also working on better disease, weed and insect control, pulse storage, the cooking quality of pulses, their chemistry, their uses and so on.

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Growing Pulse Crops In Alberta (cont'd)

Information on the production and processing of pulse crops, their nutritive value and their uses is contained in a publication entitled "Alberta Pulses - Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Lentils and Faba Beans". Published by the Pulse Growers Association of Alberta in cooperation with Alberta Agriculture, the publication can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the Pulse Growers Association of Alberta, A.D.A. Agriculture Center, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4C7.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING WARBLE TREATMENT FOR DAIRY CATTLE

This is the time that dairymen should check their cattle for warbles and treat any that are found to be infested.

Alberta Agriculture's pest control specialist, Dr. Ali Khan, says that spring is the only time that warble infestations can be confirmed, and he suggests that dairymen check for warbles by running their hand along the animal's back and feeling for small bumps or cysts. The cysts are made by warble larvae, and it is possible to see their breathing holes in the centre of the cysts if the animal's hair is parted at these locations.

According to Dr. Khan, spring is the time when cattle that could not be treated for warbles in the fall, because they were milking, should be carefully checked. Any that are found to have cysts should be sprayed three times, at three-week intervals, with rotenone, or they can be treated with a warble wash containing the same insecticide. The wash too should be applied three times at three-week intervals.

Dr. Khan says on-farm spring monitoring that has been carried out during the past two years shows a higher incidence of warble grubs in dairy cattle herds than in beef cattle herds. He believes this situation is the result of many dairymen not treating cows in the spring that they were unable to treat in the fall. And he points out that untreated dairy herds serve as a reservoir every year for new warble infestations.

This spring agricultural fieldmen and warble control inspectors will be visiting dairy farmers in Alberta who have a past history of warble infestations to discuss their problems with them.

More information on controlling warbles in dairy herds can be obtained from dairy specialists, district agriculturists or from Dr. Ali Khan, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-9051).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE HARM OF NUTRITIONAL QUACKERY

by Suzanne Tenold
Alberta Agriculture's Regional Food and Nutrition Specialist at Airdrie

The dynamics of food faddism and quackery continue to manipulate people's attitudes and actions towards food and health.

Over 10 billion dollars are spent annually in North America on products misrepresented by their promoters as cures, preventatives, relaxants or purifiers.

The harm done by such nutritional quackery takes several forms, which include economic harm, psychological harm, harm by commitment and harm by omission.

Economically the dollar value on many "health food" products far outweighs their necessity or effectiveness, "Speciality foods" come with high profit margins that are often falsely associated with the relief or prevention of illness. Books, gadgets, supplements and foods make up the powerful profit picture.

The psychological harm of nutritional quackery lies in the misplaced trust and distorted perspective that develops. People become convinced that medicine, professional health organizations, nutritionists and dietitians are not to be trusted. Profit, glory, politics and ambition are all offered by the health food establishment as reasons why these organizations and people wish to keep the truth from the public, while the true "entrepreneur" is the person who initiates these doubts.

Harm by commitment to a particular product, diet or device has been well documented in medical journals and reports. Children who are severely malnourished because of a vegetarian parent's commitment to that diet, and fatalities due to an excessive intake of certain supplements occur.

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The Harm Of Nutritional Quackery (cont'd)

Harm done by omission results from choosing a "health cure" in place of seeking medical advice. The price becomes too high when the unproven medical hypothesis of a salesman promoting supplements or speciality food items is substituted for medical help.

One's perspective often becomes distorted by nutritional quackery when supplements are promoted as insurance against poor eating habits, smoking, alcohol and excessive stress. Perhaps the correct approach would be to deal with the actual problem rather than to rely on a cover-up so that a habit that could prove hazardous can be continued.

And remember, if a product sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

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March 12, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXTENSION SERVICES BRANCH FORMED

J.D. Jantzie, director of Alberta Agriculture's engineering and rural services division, has announced the formation of the extension services branch as part of the engineering and rural services division.

Mr. Jantzie noted that during the last year the department has decentralized its informational and consultative services to streamline its program delivery and its responsiveness to the needs of farmers. These services are now under regional field services directors.

The extension services branch will provide developmental and educational services that are required to support extension activities in the field. And it will provide central support for the Green Certificate Farm Training Program; the Home Study Program, which provides educational material to farmers and farm families; the Hokkaido Exchange Program for farm workers and university professors; and special agricultural employment programs. It will also support educational activities and provide a liaison with schools, colleges and universities.

Warren Wismer has been appointed head of the new branch. During the past year he has been a member of a three-person team studying the department's delivery system and the informational needs of farmers and farm families. He has B.Sc. in agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan and an M.S. in agricultural communications from the University of Wisconsin. And in the past, he has been responsible for informational and educational services in the departments of agriculture and environment.

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DAIRY FARM SPECIALIST APPOINTED TO RED DEER

Lloyd Johnston, head of Alberta Agriculture's dairy farm inspection branch, has announced the appointment of Brian Cameron to the position of dairy farm specialist in Red Deer. His duties will include milk quality control work and the provision of production information to dairy producers.

Mr. Cameron has a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Guelph, Ontario, where he specialized in animal science. He graduated in 1981 and has had extensive experience as a dairy field technician in Ontario. He has also had experience in milking cows on several commercial dairy farms. Mr. Cameron was most recently employed as a dairy farm production management specialist with Alberta Agriculture's dairy division.

His hobbies include organizing and participating in competitive and recreational sports, camping, swimming, travelling and reading.

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March 19, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTHERN ALBERTA FOOD PROCESSORS BENEFIT FROM FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT

Five food processors will invest more than $850,000 in southern Alberta with financial support from the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement.

Pitcher Meats Ltd of Cardston will receive $112,128 towards the cost of the abattoir they have constructed in Cardston. Built at a cost of $350,000, the 5,000-square foot facility will serve custom, retail and wholesale customers in the area. And it is expected to employ six people.

Southern Feeds Ltd of Lethbridge will receive $45,813 to expand and modernize its mill, which manufactures feed supplements and a complete line of feeds for livestock and poultry. The assistance will be used to purchase such additional equipment as a computerized process control system, a hammermill, a pelletmill and conveyance and storage equipment. The total cost of the project is estimated at $270,000, and the modernization and expansion is expected to increase the mill's pelleting capacity by 20 per cent.

United Grain Growers Ltd (United Feeds Division) of Lethbridge will receive $28,220 to upgrade its feed mill. It will install an automated control system, purchase a fat coater, renovate the yard and relocate the vacuum system and storage bins. The cost of the upgrading is estimated at $166,000.

Nanton's Dutch Bakery of Nanton will receive $7,655 to modernize its facility. It will use the funds for minor repairs and to purchase equipment, including a freezer, an automated overhead proofer and a bread-slicer. The cost of the modernization is estimated at $38,000.

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Southern Alberta Food Processors Benefit From Federal-Provincial Agreement (cont'd)

Superior Feed and Supply Ltd of Rockyford will receive $6,128 to purchase and install two 32-ton hopper tanks for bulk salt and phosphate storage. The firm produces a complete line of animal feeds and supplements, handles veterinary and farm supplies and sells steel grain bins. The cost of the project is estimated at $31,000.

The Nutritive Processing Agreement, which is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE) and Alberta Agriculture, was signed in 1975. Since then food processors in rural Alberta have received more than $23 million.

Last year the two levels of government signed a one-year extension to the agreement, which means that applicants can apply for assistance up to September 30 of this year.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Alberta Agriculture at 427-4287.

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March 19, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTEREST AND DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATES

by David Walker
Head, Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture

Canadian interest rates are expected to remain relatively stable in 1984, providing that there are no unforeseen changes in economic policy in Canada or, more importantly, in the United States.

The prime interest rate, or the rate that chartered banks charge their most trusted, credit worthy and valued business customers, was relatively stable last year. It declined from 12 per cent in January and stabilized at 11 per cent in April for the balance of the year. This was in marked contrast to 1981 and 1982 when it ranged from 17.25 per cent to 22.75 per cent and from 12.5 per cent to 18.25 per cent respectively.

Although the lower and more stable interest rates have helped farmers from a cash flow point of view, it should be appreciated that in real terms, which is after an allowance has been made for current inflation expectations, they actually increased in 1983 and are currently at a relatively high level. In fact, they are at about 6 per cent compared with the long-term average of about 2 per cent and compared with a period in the mid-1970's when they were negative.

In recent years interest rates have been in large measure a reflection of government and central bank policy, particularly that of the United States. The desire to control inflation necessitates limiting the money supply growth, which results in higher interest rates. Also the Bank of Canada still considers the maintenance of a stable Canada-U.S. exchange rate to be a target of its monetary policy. Hence, future interest rates will depend upon the political resolve of American and Canadian central banks to pursue anti-inflationary policies and to refuse to accommodate burgeoning government deficits through monetary expansion.

- (cont'd) -

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Interest And Dollar Exchange Rates (cont'd)

Since a status quo for economic policy is expected for the foreseeable future, and since government deficits are expected to remain large, nominal interest rates should remain relatively stable at their current levels. Only a small decline in real terms is expected as a consequence of a possible small increase in inflation.

Currency Exchange Rates

Even though Canada's dollar exchange rate has remained relatively stable against the American dollar for a second consecutive year, it has continued to strengthen against the currencies of most other trading partners.

Its stability reflects a Bank of Canada policy to maintain a stable exchange rate with the United States. This policy has been facilitated by a large surplus in Canada's trade account, which has allowed her to maintain a lower differential without causing undue pressure on the exchange rate. As it appears that the Bank of Canada will continue this policy, and barring any major upheaval, the Canada-U.S. exchange rate is expected to continue at its current relatively stable level. Therefore, changes in the exchange rate fluctuations have had little impact on livestock prices.

However the Canadian dollar has been strong against most European currencies, which has particular significance for grain and oilseed markets. Not only did grain prices rise in dollar terms in 1983, but offshore buyers had a less favorable exchange rate when converting from their domestic currencies.

The strength in the American dollar is more of a reflection of relative interest rates than of trade balances. The demand for U.S. dollars has been a reflection of an attempt by foreigners to benefit from high U.S. interest rates rather than from a need to pay for goods and services that were purchased in that country.

Interest And Dollar Exchange Rates (cont'd)

In fact, the American balance of trade has been relatively unfavorable, and, hence, this part of the demand for American dollars has been weak. Lacking the support of a strong trade account, high relative interest rates and short-term inflows of capital are likely to only delay a fall in the American dollar. Hence, most analysts view the U.S. dollar as overvalued relative to the currencies of other major industrialized nations, with the possible exception of Canada.

The above article is based on information that was available on March 1, 1984.

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March 19, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORLD WHEAT OUTLOOK, 1984-85

"A production shortfall would provide the quickest fix for the wheat market, but demand is the key element," says an American analyst. Talking to farmers at Alberta Agriculture's annual grain and oilseeds outlook conference, Accent '84, in Calgary, Andrew Bellingham, vice-president of World Perspectives, Inc., Washington, D.C., U.S.A., stressed the importance of improved demand for wheat markets.

"The only real long-term demand growth projected is in the developing nations—and that is where the world recession has hit hardest," Mr. Bellingham said.

He also said we must continue to improve economic activity in North America and other industrialized areas, and to pursue every avenue of aid over the next three years so that we pull the developing world along with us. "If we don't do something," he emphasized, "there is too great a chance that the developing world will drag us down into recession."

On the supply side Mr. Bellingham noted, "Production and export availability are projected to remain large, but more importantly, stocks are very high. This means that even a production shortfall, similar to that in Australia in 1982, may be absorbed without any extreme price moves."

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March 19, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN FEEDGRAIN OUTLOOK

Deliver your old crop grain inventory before the end of the crop year and use any pre-planting price rallies to forward-contract a portion of your new crop production. That was the recommendation of Gary Haley of Palliser Grain at Accent '84, Alberta Agriculture's outlook conference in Calgary.

"Circumstances point to the potential for higher barley prices in the near-term, but, unfortunately, lower prices into the new crop," said Mr. Haley.

He predicted the Canadian Wheat Board will reduce initial payments for barley by about $10 per tonne to roughly $100 per tonne, basis in-store Vancouver or Thunder Bay, for the 1984-85 crop year, and he expects this will be announced before seeding.

Despite this, he suggests that increased plantings are justified because barley and feed wheat should return an equal dollar per acre, and barley is easier to move into off-quota markets than wheat, thereby creating a better cash flow.

Mr. Haley predicted large delivery quotas for the balance of the crop year, along with a reasonable expectation of higher non-board prices between now and when the new crop supplies can be assured.

"There will be a surplus in the barley pool this year," said Mr. Haley. "Probably not as much as many hope, but probably enough to provide a final payment of $10 to $12 per tonne."

He said feedgrain markets will be extra sensitive to weather, market rumours and crop reports in 1984. And he told producers, "Get ready for the ride!"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORLD OILSEED SITUATION

Volatile oilseed markets with a potential for further upward movement during the spring and summer are anticipated by Dale Gustafson, vice-president of commodities, Drexel Burnham Lambert, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Addressing Accent '84, Alberta Agriculture's grain and oilseeds outlook conference, Mr. Gustafson stated, "World oilseed production in 1983-84 has fallen approximately 14 million tonnes or about 8 per cent from the previous year's level and is at its lowest level since 1980-81." He also said, "Largely as a result of the sharp decline in oilseed production prospects in the U.S. this year, world protein meal production is expected to total only about 94.3 million tonnes, down approximately 3.2 million tonnes from a year earlier."

According to Mr. Gustafson, a potentially important factor for meal demand later this year has been the recent sharp decline in the value of the dollar. If this trend continues, meal exports to Europe could further strengthen in the summer and should provide for a strong year-to-year increase in meal consumption for the 1984-85 crop year.

"The oil market has been perhaps the more bullish aspect of the oilseed market for the 1983-84 crop year," he added. He indicated that this was the result of a poor Malaysian palm oil crop, a disappointing oil yield from U.S. beans and an improved demand in the U.S.

Looking forward to 1984 crop price prospects, Mr. Gustafson said he expects a decline in November soybean prices back into the U.S. $6.50 area this fall. Following this he anticipates a moderate upward seasonal movement that could well result in oilseed prices during the 1984-85 crop year recovering to levels closely approximating current price levels. He based these projections on a high probability that the total supply for most U.S. crops in 1984 will be generally smaller than had been anticipated prior to the February U.S.D.A. planting report.

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March 19, 1984

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CANOLA SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

"The opening of the U.S. market to canola oil holds unseen and tremendous possibilities", George Powell, senior merchandiser for Continental Grain Co., told farmers at Alberta Agriculture's grain and oilseeds outlook conference in Calgary. "The U.S. market is just too near and large not to be advantageous", he said.

He also said that although there may currently be some problems with marketing canola oil, canola meal sales to this market are expanding, and he has faith that U.S. refiners will also show increasing interest in buying canola oil.

And he expressed concern with regard to the tight Canadian canola supply situation in recent years and the fact that, as a result, exports to Japan had declined. He said, "Any further decline will result in the Japanese market actively looking at alternative vegetable oil sources. This would be very damaging to the Canadian canola industry in the long run".

Mr. Powell also expressed the opinion that we have a potential sleeping giant in Mexico as a market for canola. He said, "It is important that we have a minimum of two major export markets for canola. And we must develop a second market that is as constant as the Japanese market, and Mexico could well be that market".

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICRONUTRIENT FERTILIZERS GENERALLY NOT RECOMMENDED

It seems that Alberta farmers who apply micronutrient fertilizers to their fields this spring may be wasting their time and money.

Alberta Agriculture's soil fertility specialist at Lethbridge, Ross McKenzie, does not advise the use of micronutrient fertilizers even if extensive soil testing results have indicated that they are needed. He feels that soil test results are not accurate enough at the present time to predict when a micronutrient fertilizer is required. And he points out that most of the seven micronutrients (boron, chlorine, copper, iron, manganese, molydenum and zinc) that are required by plants are present in Alberta soils in adequate amounts.

Testing the tissues of plants grown in the soil in question is a better way of determining its level of micronutrients. Mr. McKenzie says it is a more reliable guide at this time than soil testing.

When Alberta Agriculture's soils branch staff analyzed soil samples taken from 85 fields in southern Alberta in 1982, they found, for example, that about a third of the samples were low in at least one micronutrient. However, when they analyzed the tissues of the plants that had been grown in that soil, they found no micronutrient deficiencies.

Last year Mr. McKenzie set out irrigated plots of soft wheat, barley, durum wheat, alfalfa, dry peas, dry beans and grain corn as well as dryland barley across southern Alberta and fertilized them with high rates of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and sulphur. When he added a micronutrient fertilizer, he found no evidence of an increase in yields, except in some cases of the beans. This crop appears to benefit in a cool, wet spring from a zinc fertilizer when the beans are planted on land that has little or no topsoil, and which has been fertilized with a high level of phosphate fertilizer.

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Micronutrient Fertilizers Generally Not Recommended (cont'd)

Mr. McKenzie says the above trials were carried out on soils that had varying levels of micronutrients, and that no yield increases were obtained from the use of either soil or foliar-applied micronutrients even in the case of soils which had tested low in zinc and boron. However, an analysis of the tissues of the plants grown in the plots showed higher levels of micronutrients than those in the soil. Thus, the plants had taken up the additional micronutrients but there was no yield or quality response.

When the district agriculturist at Bow Island, Dave Cubbon, conducted a number of replicated foliar-applied micronutrient trials last year on irrigated soft wheat, barley and dry beans, he also found that none of the crops responded to the additional micronutrients.

According to Mr. McKenzie, there is no evidence either that dryland crops in southern Alberta respond to applications of micronutrient fertilizers.

He suggests that farmers who are advised to use micronutrient fertilizers could apply them to test strips in their fields and compare the results with those which they obtain from their normal applications of nitrogen and phosphorous. "This", he says, "is the best way of finding out whether or not it is worthwhile to apply a micronutrient fertilizer."

Micronutrient fertilizer trials will be conducted again this year on both irrigated and dryland crops at about 35 sites in southern Alberta. Mr. McKenzie thinks that at the moment the importance of micronutrients is often overemphasized. He says, "Continued research and testing is required to identify under what conditions various crops will produce an economical yield increase in response to the addition of a micronutrient fertilizer." And he stresses that micronutrients will not make up for the lack of other nutrients, poor weed control, poor water management or other management problems. In other words, they will not work miracles!

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March 19, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAX MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR ALBERTA FARMERS

Farmers who think that they may be paying too much income tax will be interested to know that Alberta Agriculture, in cooperation with the chartered accountant firm, Deloitte Haskins and Sells, have released an updated version of the publication entitled "Tax Management Strategies for Alberta Farmers".

It outlines the strategies that can be used to save money on 1983 tax returns, and it provides a reasonably complete and easy to understand practical guide for farmers who want to plan for their 1984 tax returns.

The publication explains how to use the livestock inventory provision and block averaging as well as new rules for applying losses and investment tax credits to reduce 1983 taxes.

Among the areas covered for those who want to plan their 1984 tax returns are the tax planning implications of various types of business arrangements, estate planning and the claiming of the capital cost allowance.

"Tax Management Strategies for Alberta Farmers" covers all the changes to the Income Tax Act that have been passed into law up to now, but it does not include the proposed changes in the February 15, 1984 federal budget.

Although it is intended primarily for full-time farmers, those farming on a part-time basis will also find a lot of useful information in the publication.

Copies of "Tax Management Strategies for Alberta Farmers" (Agdex 837) can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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IDEAS FOR ALBERTA PORK SEMINAR

Ideas for next year's Alberta Pork Seminar are now being solicited by the planners.

The seminar is an annual event that is organized by representatives of the University of Alberta, the Alberta Pork Producers' Marketing Board, the Western Hog Growers Association and the pork industry branch of Alberta Agriculture.

Dr. Frank Aherne of the University of Alberta's Department of Animal Science has been named chairman of the organizing committee, which consists of the following:

Roy Barrett, Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board	—	783-5192
Lloyd Unterschultz, Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board	—	474-8288
Fred Schuld, Pork Industry Branch, Alberta Agriculture	—	427-5320
Dr. Leo Abenes, Pork Industry Branch, Alberta Agriculture	—	343-5334
Val Smith, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta	—	432-2406
Dr. Brian McQuitty, Department of Agricultural Eng., University of Alberta	—	432-4251
Dr. Frank Aherne, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Alberta	—	432-2118
Dr. Reg. Norby, Department of Rural Economy, University of Alberta	—	432-4225
Don Gregorwich, Western Hog Growers' Association	—	373-2503

Ideas for the seminar can be sent to any of the above committee members.

The 1985 Alberta Pork Seminar will be held in Banff on January 16,17 and 18.

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March 19, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR TO DEAL WITH THE EFFECTS OF SOUR GAS ON ANIMAL PRODUCTION

"Long-Term Study of Animal Production – Oil and Gas Interaction" is the title of a seminar that will be held at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville on April 11.

Presented by Dr. Robert Church, head of the Department of Medical Biochemistry at the University of Calgary, it will deal with the preliminary results of a 20-year study of the effects of sour gas plants on ranching operations and with the interaction of sour crude oil and animal production.

The seminar will start at 2 p.m. and will be held in the centre's main conference room.

Further information on "Long-Term study of Animal Production – Oil and Gas Interaction" can be obtained by telephoning Dr. S. Ramamoorthy at 632-6761 in Vegreville.

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PROBATIONARY/SELECT SEED GROWERS SHORT COURSE

The Alberta branch of the Canadian Seed Growers Association will host a probationary/select seed growers' short course at the Alberta Agricultural Building in Lacombe on April 10.

Following is the tentative agenda.

- Requirements and Procedures for Starting Probation – Bill Witbeck, Alberta Agriculture.
- Getting Back to Basics – A Review of Regulations – Orrin Clayton, Canadian Seed Growers Association, Ottawa.
- Hdw I Do It – A Select Growers' Presentation – Ernie Kvarnberg, Calmar.
- Plant Products Inspector – What They Look For During Plot Inspection – Randy Miller, Plant Products Division, Agriculture Canada, Red Deer.
- Variety Identification – Plant Parts and How a Variety is Developed – Dr. Martin Kaufmann, Agricultural Canada, Lacombe.

The above presentations will be followed by a question period.

Probationary seed growers, select seed growers and those who would like to become a probationary seed grower are encouraged to attend this short course. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. and the course will get underway at 9:15 a.m.

Further information can be obtained from Bill Witbeck at 782-4641.

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March 19, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA 4-H LEADERS ATTEND WESTERN REGIONAL 4-H LEADER FORUM

Four Alberta 4-H leaders attended the Western Regional 4-H Leader Forum in Las Vegas, Nevada. The conference was designed to help 4-H volunteer leaders gain additional skills in working with youth.

Harold Anderson of Delacour, Yvonne Hauser of Rosalind, Arlene Hedlund of Drayton Valley and Margaret Vanberg of Sexsmith joined more than 700 leaders from 13 western states to attend the forum.

With the theme, "4-H: Ridin' High", the forum featured 50 concurrent workshops on such topics as stress management, innovative 4-H teaching techniques, consumer education, energy, citizenship, leadership, working with disabled youth, foods, nutrition, economics and animal science. In addition, participants went on several educational tours.

The forum was conducted by the extension service in co-operation with the United States Department of Agriculture and National 4-H Council. The J.C. Penney Company and its member stores throughout the western region helped sponsor the event.

The Alberta delegates' participation was made possible through the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture. Submission of their names for selection was made through the Leader Training Recognition Nomination form by district 4-H councils.

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March 19, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA 4-H LEADERS ATTEND THE MANITOBA ANNUAL 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

Virginia Differenz of the Namepi Riders 4-H Club and Carmen Gorius of the Hines Creek 4-H Clothing Club represented Alberta 4-H at the annual meeting of the Manitoba 4-H Council.

The Manitoba program provided an opportunity for 4-H leaders from across western Canada to share ideas and participate in a variety of educational programs. The Annual 4-H Council meeting was highlighted by guest speakers Terri Mitcher speaking on "Self Motivation in the 4-H Setting" and Lendre Rogder Kearns, communications director for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, on "Selling the 4-H Program."

The two leaders were selected to attend through the 4-H Leader Training Recognition Program. They were nominated by their district council as outstanding 4-H leaders and sponsored by Alberta Agriculture.

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AGRI-NEWS

March 26, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 26, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUTRITIVE PROCESSORS BENEFIT FROM FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT

Two Alberta firms, one located in Lloydminster and the other near Iron River, will receive a total of $43,561 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

United Oilseed Products Ltd of Lloydminster will receive $32,017 to modernize its canola crushing plant. It will install a heat exchange unit to utilize heat that is escaping into the atmosphere by converting it into a usable heat source for preheating canola seed. In this way the firm will reduce its natural gas consumption, which, in turn, will reduce its operating costs. The cost of the modernization is estimated to be $160,000.

Iron River Meat Processors of Iron River, will receive $11,544 to upgrade its facility to a Class "A" abattoir. It will expand and modernize the abattoir by constructing an addition to the existing facility and by purchasing new equipment. The cost of the project is estimated at $62,000, and one additional full-time and two additional part-time workers are expected to be employed.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE) and Alberta Agriculture. Since the agreement was signed in 1975, rural Alberta food processors have received more than $23 million in financial assistance.

The two levels of government extended the agreement by one year which means that applicants have until September 30, 1984 to submit their applications.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Alberta Agriculture of 427-4287.

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March 26, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN WHEAT OUTLOOK, 1984-85

"So far this year Canadian wheat sales have held up very well, despite a very competitive market," Dr. Brian Oleson, general director of the Canadian Wheat Board's research and analysis division, said at Alberta Agriculture's grain and oilseeds conference, Accent '84, in Calgary.

He also said that long-term agreements and traditional customers have provided a good base for Canadian exports. He believes, quotas will be high for durum, winter and soft white spring wheat by July 31, 1984. And he said "For red spring wheat, it looks like there will be an increase in the carryover of No.1 and No.2 CW wheat, and quotas may be fairly tight. The quota situation for lower grades of red spring wheat will be better, however".

Dr. Oleson expects that world wheat trade in 1984-85 will, for the fourth successive year, be in the 100 million tonne range. And he suggested that if Canada could hold on to its 21 per cent share of this trade, a 1984 crop of the size of the 1983 crop could, barring unforeseen difficulties, be marketed without a significant build up in stocks. He indicated that 1984-85 may be a more difficult marketing year for durums because a significant increase in production is expected in both the U.S.A. and Canada, and the market for durums is relatively thin.

Dr. Oleson warned that competition in wheat markets is intense and that in some cases this competition is being subsidized by public treasuries. "The tone of the market in the 1984-85 may very well be set by the debate on the 1985 Farm Bill in the United States", he said.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORLD FEEDGRAIN PRICES HINGE ON WEATHER

The weather could be a major factor in determining world feedgrain prices during the coming year, according to Mike Hinebaugh, president of Hinebaugh Associates Ltd., Hinsdale, Illinois, U.S.A.

A repeat of last year's drought in the United States would propel corn prices to record levels because there are no longer any buffer stocks, he told the audience at Accent '84, Alberta Agriculture's grain and oilseeds outlook conference in Calgary.

Although Mr. Hinebaugh acknowledged that a second consecutive year of drought is unlikely, he noted that weather patterns in recent years have become extremely variable and untrustworthy.

"A more likely scenario," said Mr. Hinebaugh, is for a production recovery of 30 per cent after last year's reduction, which was caused by a severe drought and the Payment in Kind (PIK) program in the United States. Given normal weather conditions, he expects corn supplies to be plentiful.

The longer-term outlook for coarse grain on a world scale is pessimistic, Mr. Hinebaugh said. The use of coarse grains for feed is below expectations for the third year in a row. Meat consumption and animal numbers are stagnant in the developed countries, and the use of feedgrain substitutes is rising. The poorer countries simply can't afford to import, Mr. Hinebaugh said.

'It's not a situation that generates a bright outlook for feedgrain prices when the world returns to a condition of oversupply again," he concluded. This return to oversupply will come about because of the worldwide increase in production during the 1980s, combined with the large productive capacity of the United States and the accompanying slowdown in demand.

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March 26, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANALYST SEES PROMISING YEAR FOR SPECIAL CROPS

Special crops offer a chance for a good market and higher returns per acre than cereal and oilseed crops — factors that make them increasingly attractive to farmers in the light of poor cereal grain prices and tight quotas.

"Contracting prices are generally higher for all special crops than they were a year ago," Gerald Donkersgoed, a trader with Allstate Grain Company Ltd., told farmers at Accent '84, Alberta Agriculture's outlook conference in Calgary.

"With no quotas on special crops, acreage can be assigned to delivery of quota grain to increase total delivery opportunities," he said.

With little or no carryover of yellow mustard, initial 1984 contract prices were as high as 18¢ per pound, although most companies are now offering fixed price contracts around 16½¢ per pound. Contract prices could be further reduced if the acreage increases too quickly. As well, a large acreage of non-contract yellow mustard could result in large stocks and depressed prices.

"At the moment, however, yellow mustard is the shining star of the special crops," Mr. Donkersgoed said.

Current world stocks of lentils are relatively low, and there is a strong possibility of an upward price movement this spring for the 1983 crop. Mr. Donkersgoed said this should affect trading values of the new lentil crop.

He further suggested that with a 137,000 tonne projected supply, prices for peas can be expected to start off soft again this year, but as the season progresses, they will strengthen to ration supplies.

He concluded that if the new Crow benefit for many special crops can be passed on to the producer, a further acreage increase is likely. "Canada will be more competitive in export markets and should be able to increase its market," he said.

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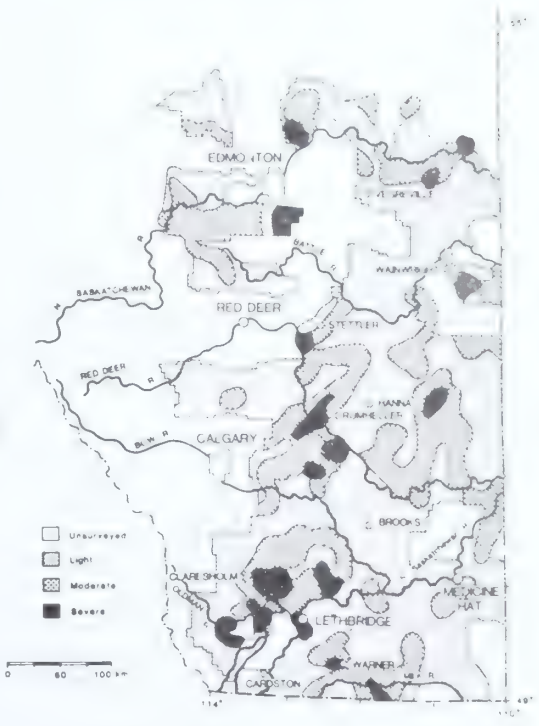
1984 GRASSHOPPER FORECAST FOR ALBERTA

Grasshopper infestations could be bad in Alberta this spring.

The province has experienced five serious grasshopper outbreaks since surveys were started back in 1932. They occurred in 1933, 1940, 1948, 1962 and 1974. And survey and weather data that have been compiled at the federal research station in Lethbridge indicate that we may be heading into the sixth one this year.



1984 Grasshopper Forecast for Alberta

Last year's weather pattern was apparently extremely favorable to grasshopper growth and reproduction. A warm, dry June enhanced the survival rate of hatching nymphs and promoted their growth. Then hot, dry weather in August provided favorable egg laying conditions, and a partial snow cover during the severe cold spell in November and December ensured that a high percentage of the grasshopper eggs survived.

What happens from now on will depend upon the weather. A warm, dry spring, combined with a high survival rate of the larger-than-normal number of eggs, would provide the conditions for a serious grasshopper outbreak. On the other hand, the survival rate of grasshopper nymphs will be reduced, and their rate of growth retarded, if the spring turns out to be cool and wet. This latter situation would give crops a chance to get ahead start. The

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1984 Grasshopper Forecast (cont'd)

fact that older plants are more able to withstand an onslaught of grasshoppers than young plants was demonstrated in the Peace River region last year when a severe local outbreak, which had been predicted, was alleviated by the arrival of moist weather. No grasshopper problem is forecast for that area this year.

Similarly, severe grasshopper infestations were reduced in the Wainwright-Provost area by rain and disease. However, there were localized infestations, and a moderate to severe grasshopper hazard is expected in the area southeast of Wainwright, especially if the spring is dry. The high risk areas this year will be around Drumheller and in a triangle which is bordered by Fort Macleod, Claresholm and Lethbridge. Smaller infestations may occur near Edmonton and Wainwright in the north and near Warner in the south.

The Alberta grasshopper survey is conducted by Agriculture Canada personnel in cooperation with agricultural fieldmen. Last August grasshoppers were sampled on almost every 10 km of agricultural land, and the data obtained showed that the total area rated as "severe" (5 - 10 grasshoppers per m^2) and very "severe" (more than 10 grasshoppers per m^2) has remained at about 4 per cent of the total area surveyed. However, agricultural land which had a "moderate" rating (2.2 - 5 grasshoppers per m^2) has increased from 19 per cent to 25 per cent, and the "light" infestation area has increased by approximately the same amount.

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, urges farmers in areas which have been given a "moderate" or higher infestation rating to check their fields very carefully when the grasshoppers begin to hatch in mid to late May. He says if more than 15 grasshoppers are found per square metre in June, control measures may be required.

Current grasshopper control recommendations can be obtained from all district agriculturists.

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March 26, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS IN CATTLE

Campylobacteriosis, formerly known as vibriosis, has not been diagnosed in Alberta cattle as frequently in recent years as it was 10 to 20 years ago, but it can still cause considerable losses if it is introduced into a susceptible herd.

Campylobacteriosis is a genital infection that is caused by the bacterium *Campylobacter fetus* subspecies *venerealis*. It is transmitted during the act of breeding and causes temporary infertility in cows, and it can also cause abortions.

Dr. W.T. Nagge of Alberta Agriculture's Peace River regional veterinary laboratory at Fairview says the infection can be introduced into a cattle herd through the addition of an infected cow or an infected bull. And he says that a clean bull that services an infected cow can become infected and transmit the infection to other cows in the herd.

The return to heat by cows that were thought to be pregnant is often one of the first indications of campylobacteriosis, according to Dr. Nagge. And he says if the herd is not pregnancy tested in the fall, the disease may go unsuspected until calving time. When pregnancy testing is done in the fall, a higher than normal percentage of open cows at that time may be an indication of the disease as may be a higher than normal percentage of late calvers in the herd. Although campylobacteriosis can cause abortions, which usually occur during the last third of pregnancy, this characteristic of the disease is relatively uncommon in cattle.

"Fortunately", says Dr. Nagge, "cows can rid themselves of the infection, and some that are infected early in the breeding season can rid themselves of the infection in time to conceive late late in the breeding season". He points out, however, that this is not likely to occur if exposure to the bull is limited to 45 days, a practice that is becoming increasingly common.

- (cont'd) -

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Campylobacteriosis In Cattle (cont'd)

Bulls suffering from campylobacteriosis do not usually show any signs of infection, and their libido and semen quality are not affected. However, unlike the cows, they do not rid themselves of the infection quickly. In fact, they can remain infected for two years or longer.

Dr. Nagge stresses that any new animals, except virgin heifers, that are introduced into a cattle herd represent a potential a source of infection. He also stresses that a herd that has no immunity to campylobacteriosis is very vulnerable if it has not been vaccinated.

He says there is now a vaccine on the market that will provide good protection to cows, and, while it does not protect all bulls, it will prevent the infection in a good many of them. He recommends vaccinating cows every year one to two months before the breeding season and vaccinating bulls every year two months and again one month before the breeding season.

Dr. Nagge also advises cattlemen to discuss the details of their proposed vaccination plan with their veterinarian because some of the brands of vaccine on the market are considered by some authorities to provide better protection than others.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN FOOD PRODUCTS EXHIBITED IN SINGAPORE

Alberta Agriculture's market development division and a number of individual companies from several of the other provinces, and the Canadian High Commission in Singapore, are organizing a Canadian exhibit for the Food and Hotel Asia '84 Bi-annual Exposition, which will be held in Singapore from April 24 - 27.

The Canadian exhibitors' team consists of seven companies, three of which are from Alberta. They are Burns Food Ltd. of Calgary, Premier Meats Ltd. of Calgary, and the Central Alberta Dairy Pool of Red Deer.

After the exposition, the Alberta group will go to Hong Kong to meet with a numerous importers. Both here and in Singapore influencial importers will be invited to a reception where they will be able to sample food products from Alberta.

Among the exhibits at the Singapore exposition will be meats, poultry and game; seafood and fish products; delicatessen and health foods; dairy products; confectionary and bakery products; spices, condiments, etc; canned and frozen foods; fruits and vegetables; preserves and honey; beverages; wines and beers; spirits, liquors and mixes; and soft drinks, fruit juices, etc.

Both the Singapore and the Hong Kong markets focus on the major hotels, ocean vessel provisioners and upper income groups, including expatriates who frequent the better supermarkets. These city states receive several million tourists a year, which bolsters the demand for high quality food products, including meat, cheese and processed foods. In 1982 Singapore and Hong Kong imported food and live animals worth in excess of $4 billion (US).

Further information on Food and Hotels Asia '84 Bi-annual Exposition can be obtained from Bill Anderson, Market Development, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-4241).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AG-EXPO PROVINCIAL SEED FAIR TO INCLUDE AN INTERNATIONAL SEED SECTION

Alberta's minister of Agriculture, Leroy Fjordbotten's announcement that Ag-Expo's Provincial Seed Fair will include an international seed section was the highlight of this year's event.

The fact that the provincial fair will also be an international fair means that seed samples will be invited from all over the world, and that corn will play an important part in the fair. Although corn is not grown to any great extent in Alberta, it occupies an important place in world food markets.

Neville Downs of Lethbridge, a prominent seedman, has been named chairman of the new international seed section.

The winner of this year's Grand Aggregate Trophy at the Ag-Expo '84 Provincial Seed Fair was Jerry Kubik of Wrentham. John Holman of Wayne won the George Luco Grand Champion Trophy and Rita Deurloo of Granum won the Kiznia Memorial Trophy for the pedigreed cereal classes.

When the first place pedigreed seed samples were auctioned, the highest bid went for a sample of Wascona durum from the J. Miklos Farm at Wrentham.

The two top winners in the individual classes were:

Pedigreed Hard Red Spring Wheat

Tony Crooymans, Bow Island — Eddie Owen, Coaldale

Pedigreed Hard Red Winter Wheat

Jerry Kubik, Wrentham — Bob Luco, Lethbridge

Pedigreed Durum

Jimmy Miklos, Wrentham — Bob Luco, Lethbridge

- (cont'd) -

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Ag-Expo Provincial Seed Fair To Include An International Seed Section (cont'd)

Pedigreed Two-Row Barley

John Holman, Wayne — Lyle Ferguson, Champion

Pedigreed Six-Row Barley

Allen Graffe, Lethbridge — Lyle Ferguson, Champion

Pedigreed Oats

Kerry Hebbes, Strathmore — David Hegland, Wembley

Pedigreed Soft White Spring Wheat

John Crooymans, Bow Island — Tony Crooymans, Bow Island

Pedigreed Utility Wheat

Lloyd Mercer, Lethbridge

Pedigreed Grass Seed

Ken Long, Cardston — Gordon Thompson, Milk River

Pedigreed Legume Seed

H.W. Dyck, Rosemary — Jack Reddekopp, Rosemary

Pedigreed Argentine Canola

Edward Kruyko, Morinville — Jerry Kubik, Wrentham

Pedigreed Polish Canola

Ralph and Jane Dueck, Olds — Jerry Kubik, Wrentham

Pedigreed Flax

Doug Campbell, Coaldale — Art and Gary Strain, Foremost

Open Classes

Hard Red Spring Wheat

Bob Luco, Lethbridge — Jerry Kubik, Wrentham

Hard Red Winter Wheat

Allen Greeno, Lethbridge — Edward Kurz, Carmangay

- (cont'd) -

Ag-Expo Provincial Seed Fair To Include An International Seed Section (cont'd)

Durum

Rita Deurloo, Granum — Ted Brantner, Wrentham

Barley (any type)

Russell Turner, Drumheller — John Holman, Wayne

Oats

Ross Harrison, Sunnybrook — Mike Meinczinger, Warburg

Rye

Watsons Seeds, High Level — Judy Smith, Champion

Yellow Mustard

Carl Lewring, Claresholm — William Perry, Coaldale

Mustard (other types)

Joe Slovak, Wrentham — Otto Gross, Bow Island

Soft White Spring Wheat

Lavern Kurpjuweit, Seven Persons — Peter Bratt, Seven Persons

Utility Wheat

Connie Mercer, Lethbridge — Bryan Murray, Lethbridge

Triticale

E.H. Kiffiak, Foremost — Gordon Laing, Claresholm

Argentine Canola

J.H. Morrison, Vermilion — John Crooymans, Bow Island

Polish Canola

Jerry Kubik, Wrentham — Art and Gary Strain, Foremost

Flax (any type)

Chris Deurloo, Granum — Doug Campbell, Coaldale

- (cont'd) -

Ag-Expo Provincial Seed Fair To Include An International Seed Section (cont'd)

Protein And Quality Classes		
Barley	Edware Kurz, Carmangay	Erling Olsen, Warner
Spring Wheat	Jerry Kubik, Wrentham	B. Kurpjuweit, Seven Persons
Winter Wheat	Jerry Kubik, Wrentham	Foremost Seeds, Foremost
Pulse Classes		
Dry Field Beans	Joe Kusalik, Grassy Lake	Fleming Farms, Bow Island
Fababeans	Charval Farms, Coaldale	Peter Stunboch, Bassano
Corn (shelled)	Burkeley Thacker, Bow Island	Fran Thacker, Burdett
Hay Classes		
Alfalfa	Gerry Hilgersom, Coaldale	Nick Hermann, Bow Island
Grass & Legume Hay Mix	E.A. Wauters, Lethbridge	L.M. Warnock, Iron Springs
Silage Classes		
Silage Corn	Timothy Walter, Turin	Jake Walter, Turin
Silage (other types)	Carolyn Vanden Berg, Coaldale	Harold Vanden Berg, Coaldale
Junior Competition		
Spring Wheat	Frank Walter, Lomond	Ryan Mercer, Lethbridge
Hard Red Winter Wheat	Sherry Lunn Greeno, Lethbridge	Ryan Mercer, Lethbridge
Durum	Lori Ann Deurloo, Granum	Suellen Deurloo, Granum
Soft White Spring Wheat	Carri Gergely, Coaldale	Ryan Mercer, Lethbridge
Utility Wheat	Ryan Mercer, Lethbridge	Carol Bratt, Coaldale
Oats	Judy Walter, Turin	Lori Ann Deurloo, Granum
Barley	Jamey Paarup, Drumheller	Hal Turner, Drumheller

(cont'd) -

Ag-Expo Provincial Seed Fair To Include An International Seed Section (cont'd)

Flax	Suellen Deurloo, Granum	Lori Ann Deurloo, Granum
Canola	Natasha Kubik, Wrentham	Gary Gross, Pincher Creek
Beans	Debra Waldner, Turin	Judy Walter, Turin

Wheat Weaving Competition

Beginners — Anna Heynen, Lethbridge

Advanced With Traditional Design

Alda Crooymans, Bow Island — Kathy Thiessen, Lethbridge

Advanced with Original Design

Alda Crooymans, Bow Island — Kathy Thiessen, Lethbridge

Mike Clawson, district agriculturist at Lethbridge reports there were a record 542 entries in the Ag-Expo '84 Provincial Seed Fair.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The control of digestion and metabolism in ruminants will be the theme of the Sixth International Symposium on Ruminants, scheduled to take place at the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta, on September 10 - 14.

Within the broader context of current advances, the formal program will emphasize the mechanisms of regulation as a basis for predicting the means of changing productivity. And the interchange of ideas will be encouraged by a combination of invited papers, poster presentations and informal discussions.

The invited paper sessions will include: basic ruminant digestive physiology; microbiology; compartments and kinetics of rumen contents; neuro-hormonal regulation of the gastrointestinal tract; cold environment and the gastrointestinal tract; metabolism in the ruminant; hormonal control of digestion and metabolism; and integrative aspects of digestive physiology and metabolism.

The registration fee is $230 (CAN), which will cover attendance at the symposium, the banquet and copies of the proceedings and published papers. Registration froms and additional information can be obtained from: The Secretariat, 6th ISRP, Department of Animal Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6G 2P5 (Telephone: 403-432-5571).

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March 26, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA GREENHOUSE GROWERS ASSOCIATION HOSTS AN INDUSTRY TRADE TOUR

The Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association (AGGA) will host a tour by the wholesale and retail trade of the greenhouse vegetable industry in southern Alberta on April 11 and 12.

Ted Hole, president of the AGGA, says the association would like to provide an opportunity for buyers to become more familiar with the greenhouse industry and to discuss ways of improving the marketing of greenhouse vegetables. The major greenhouse vegetables are tomatoes and long English cucumbers.

Tour participants will visit the greenhouse operations at Redcliff and Welling; the Red Hat Co-op, a grower-operated packaging plant; the large waste heat greenhouse at Princess, operated by Noval Enterprises, a subsidiary of Nova, which is an Alberta Corporation; and the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks. At the time of the tour, the spring crops will be in their prime and picking will have just begun.

A banquet for growers and the wholesale and retail trade is also planned. It will be followed by a panel discussion on "Improving the Marketing of Alberta Greenhouse Tomatoes and Cucumbers", which will involve two greenhouse growers and two wholesale buyers. Ted Hole says this constructive discussion will greatly aid the greenhouse industry.

For more information on the tour, contact Abe den Ouden of the Alberta Greenhouse Growers' Association (Telephone: 548-3005) or Chris Campbell of Alberta Agriculture (Telephone.297-8452).

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March 26, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA 4-H'ERS GO TO OTTAWA

Six Alberta 4-H'ers will be among the 60 delegates from across Canada who will be attending the National 4-H Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa, Ontario, from April 6 - 11.

The Albertans are Greg Skriver of the Tilley 4-H beef club; Dixie Tyndall of the Ponoka 4-H craft club; Chris Church of the Hesketh-Orkney 4-H beef club; Holly Treacy of the Hussar 4-H homemakers club; Tracey Hanson of the Irricana 4-H beef and photo clubs; and Helen Davidson of the Alliance bits and spurs 4-H club.

While in Ottawa the 60 4-H'ers will learn more about the rights and responsibilities of a Canadian citizen; government structure and systems, Canadian issues and heritage and culture.

Guest speakers, visits to parliament hill, the governor general's residence and the citizenship court will be among the highlights of the seminar. And all the delegates will have an opportunity to meet their members of parliament and to attend a question period.

The Alberta delegates will be honored at a send-off banquet, which is being sponsored by the Alberta Wheat Pool, and their attendance at the National 4-H Citizenship Seminar has been made possible by the Secretary of State Open House Canada Program and the Canadian 4-H Council.

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March 26, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H'ERS ATTEND ALBERTA GIRLS' PARLIAMENT

Charlotte Theissen of the Crowfoot 4-H multi club, Tracy Kneeland of the Paint Earth 4-H beef club and Shelley Ann Werenka of the Sangudo 4-H beef club attended the Alberta Girls' Parliament Program in Edmonton. They were chosen to attend this event last May at the Provincial 4-H Selections.

The 4-H'ers joined senior girl guides and CGIT members from throughout Alberta for the four-day event, which involved forming a government and an ooposition party and taking part in debates on relevant issues. They also learned how the parliamentary system evolved and how it works in Canada and they attended a session of the Alberta Legislature.

Participation of the 4-H'ers in the Alberta Girls' Parliament Program was made possible by Alberta Agriculture.

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March 26, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIETARY FIBRE

Dietary fibre has received a great deal of attention in the press in recent years, and scientists generally agree that fibre can be useful for treating constipation and diverticular disease. However, there is disagreement as to the actual value of fibre for preventing diseases.

In the early 1970's a number of British physicians, among them Dr. Denis Burkitt, observed that a variety of digestive and other diseases, such as cancer of the colon, hemorrhoids, diverticular disease, appendicitis, hiatus hernia, varicose veins and atherosclerosis and ischemic heart disease were virtually unknown among Africans who lived in rural villages. However, these diseases were found among those who had moved to urban areas where they had adopted the typical low fibre, high fat processed diet of Western man.

The British physicians hypothesized that a high fibre diet increased the rate at which the stool moved through the bowel, thereby allowing less time for the bowel's tissues to be exposed to the toxins and cancer-causing substances in the stool.

Cathy Sinnott, regional food and nutrition specialist with Alberta Agriculture, feels that the dietary fibre issue should be kept in in perspective. Ms. Sinnott says a person who is increasing the fibre content of his or her diet would be wise to do so gradually so that the digestive system has time to adapt. She points out that a sudden increase in fibre can cause distressing side-effects like a stuffed or bloated feeling. She also points out that too much fibre can impair the body's ability to absorb such important minerals as iron, copper and calcium.

Dietary fibre is a term used to describe the portion of plant foods that is not digested in the human gastrointestinal tract. It contributes neither energy nor nutrients as it passes through the body, but it absorbs water and forms the bulk needed to eliminate solid wastes.

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Dietary Fibre (cont'd)

"Since fibre is just one part of a properly balanced diet, the best procedure to follow," says Ms. Sinnott, "is to eat a varied, balanced diet that contains the recommended number of servings from each of the food groups in Canada's Food Guide. These groups are fruit and vegetables, meat and meat alternatives, milk and milk products, and breads and cereals. When choosing servings from the breads and cereals group select whole grain breads and cereals, instead of their refined counterparts."

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AGRI-NEWS

April 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CENTRAL ALBERTA FOOD PROCESSORS RECEIVE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ASSISTANCE

Two central Alberta food processors, Quality Feeds (Alberta) Ltd of Lacombe and Maple Leaf Mills Ltd of Stettler, will receive a total of $37,685 in financial assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

Quality Feed (Alberta) Ltd will receive 24,682 to modernize and expand its feed mill. The money will be used to purchase load-out bins and to expand the firm's warehouse, which will enable it to increase both its service and storage capabilities. The estimated capital cost of the project is $123,000.

Maple Leaf Mills Ltd will receive $13,003 to expand its facilities. The firm produces a complete line of animal and poultry feeds and will use the funds to add a steam roller to its mill. The estimated capital cost of this project is $65,000.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE) and Alberta Agriculture. Since the agreement was signed in 1975, rural Alberta food processors have received more than $23 million.

Last year the two levels of government signed a one-year extension to the agreement, which means that applications will continue to be accepted until September 30, 1984.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Alberta Agriculture at 427-4287.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECORD WHEAT CROP POSSIBLE DESPITE VOLATILE WEATHER

The weather of the 1980s has been similar to that of the 1930s, with swings in temperature and precipitation causing wild fluctuations in agricultural production.

Despite this, Gail Martell, chief meteorologist with E.F. Hutton in Milwaukee, U.S.A., told farmers at Alberta Agriculture's outlook conference in Calgary, Accent '84, that a record Canadian wheat crop is still a good bet. She also said that current conditions point to another huge global harvest.

Crop prospects in Russia, China and the United States — the world's three leading wheat producers are at least as good as those of last year. Barring weather disasters, Ms. Martell expects world supplies to keep building faster than consumption, leading to an expansion of global stocks.

For Canada specifically, Ms. Martell says there are two reasons to suspect yields won't be up to par in 1984. One is that the subsoil moisture is not ideal in the Prairie provinces, Alberta in particular has been dry with moisture since September only 50 to 75 per cent of normal, she says.

Second, Canadian weather has been volatile since last summer, suggesting further problems in 1984. Consequently, Ms. Martell expects yields to be about 4 per cent below normal. If, however, as she forecasts, the crop area expands by 5 per cent, a record production is still possible.

The 1983 summer drought and heatwave in the American Midwest is the most dramatic example of erratic weather, breaking records at both ends of the spectrum — cold and hot, wet and dry.

"In recent months weather has been so erratic it is difficult to define what "normal" is," says Ms. Martell.

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Record Wheat Crop Possible Despite Volatile Weather (cont'd)

Poor growing seasons cluster within decades, she added, and so far the 1980s have had two difficult growing seasons. She, therefore, anticipates more weather problems, possibly even this summer. "Either July or August may be unfavorable," she says. "If July is hot and dry, the corn crop will be adversely affected. If it is August, soybeans will suffer."

Meanwhile, Brazil and Argentina are striving to capitalize on the world shortage in oilseeds by producing and exporting more soybeans this season. "The bottom line", Ms. Martell says, "is that world oilseed supplies are still tight, making the situation potentially bullish."

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April 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. FARM POLICY INFLUENCES CANADIAN GRAIN MARKET PROSPECTS

Dr. John Marten, staff economist with the U.S. Farm Journal believes that the 1985 American Farm Bill could show a shift towards "market clearing" programs that would result in immediate adjustment problems for countries like Canada, which compete with the United States in world grains markets.

Dr. Marten told participants at Alberta Agriculture's grain and oilseeds outlook conference in Calgary, Accent '84, that U.S. farm policy in recent years has tended to move away from market orientation. He was particularly critical of the high price loan rates that hold grain off the market. "Target prices and deficiency payments", he suggested, "have little if any direct impact on the real market price. They are, thus, an outstanding income transfer tool".

He cynically described the 1982 U.S. farm policy, which increased loan rates, as the "Canadian Agricultural Development Act" because it raised a massive umbrella over world grain markets for other exporters such as Canada.

Dr. Marten described the PIK (Payment In Kind) Program as being a brilliant — almost perfect — solution to the problem facing the U.S. in 1983 as it cut production, increased prices and farm income, reduced government storage costs and got grain back onto the market.

"If we keep the reserve concept after 1984", he said, "it should be legislated tightly to insure that it is used only as intended".

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April 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE WORLD NEEDS OUR GRAIN

Strong optimism about the world demand for Canadian grain was expressed by Otto Lang, executive vice-president of Pioneer Grain Company, Ltd., in a very upbeat address to farmers at Alberta's annual outlook conference in Calgary.

Noting that high energy prices and world recession had temporarily slowed the growth in the demand for grain, the former wheat board minister predicted that stable oil prices and world recovery, now under way, would see a resurgence in this demand, based on the "twin pillars of increasing population and income growth". Income growth is particularly important," Mr. Lang said, "because it brings about changes in eating habits, beginning with greater consumption of cereal foods and edible oils, and leading on to diets that include more grain-fed meat. I am particularly confident about rising incomes in third world and less developed countries and feel that the stage is now set for a return to the trendline for increased grain demand that saw a doubling in grain consumption in the decade prior to the recession".

Mr. Lang also expressed confidence that the correction of present imbalances will lead as well to rising grain prices. He said, "We are not carrying an overly large reserve of grain in the world, keeping in mind the disasters which could occur. The problem is that most of the grain is being carried in the United States and that has an inordinately large impact on prices. It may take a short crop, revived world economies, or merely a realization of how small the reserve really is to trigger appropriate price increases."

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FOR IMMEIDATE RELEASE

RAIL FREIGHT RATE INCREASES

The guidelines that were implemented by the federal government in 1983 to limit rail freight rate increases for most agricultural commodities and other rail freight to 5 per cent will expire on June 28, 1984.

Rail freight rates for fresh and frozen meat were increased by 5 per cent this year in early February, but a few days after this increase, the railways announced a new rate, known as the "Piggyback Rate" for packaged and suspended meat shipments to Eastern Canada. According to Nabi Chaudhary, agricultural transportation economist with Alberta Agriculture, the new rate appears to be much more attractive than the rate charged by the railways for similar shipments. He also says that the railways have introduced a "boxed beef" shipment rate to Eastern Canada, which is considerably lower than the regular rate for packaged and suspended meat.

The domestic rail rates for grain and grain products were also increased by 5 per cent earlier this year as were the domestic rail rates for processed alfalfa. Since January 1, 1984, alfalfa pellets and cubes destined for export markets have been shipped under the new Statutory rates.

Rail rates for livestock were increased by 5 per cent on April 1. And the seasonal rate from October 15, 1984 to December 31, 1984 will increase by 4 per cent. However, this rate will revert back to its April 1, 1984 level on January 1, 1985.

Rail rates for fruits and vegetables, lumber and forest products and agricultural implements all increased by 5 per cent on January 1 of this year. They will be in effect until December 31, 1984.

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Rail Freight Rate Increases (cont'd)

Additional information on rail freight rates can be obtained from Nabi Chaudhary, Production and Resource Economics Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-5395).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLIP-OVER DISEASE IN BROILERS

Flip-over disease, or acute death syndrome, can cause a serious mortality rate in broiler chickens.

According to the head of Alberta Agriculture's poultry diseases section, Dr. J.A. Hanson, flip-over disease usually affects the larger, and rapidly growing, broilers that are between two and 12 weeks old. He says most cases occur when the birds are between three and five weeks old. Although the percentage of birds affected is usually low, perhaps about one per cent, in some instances it may be as high as 5 per cent. The condition can also affect small farm flocks.

Dr. Hanson says that small farm broiler flocks may be affected by the disease, but it is not usually a problem in these situations because the rations are often not conducive to rapid growth.

Birds that succumb to flip-over disease are often found dead on their stomachs with their legs stretched out behind them and their necks extended forward. Occasionally, a dead bird is found on its back. There is rarely any sign of sickness prior to such deaths, but some people have observed a bird, which appeared to be perfectly normal, suddenly squawk, make a small jump into the air and land on its back. The wings flutter, there are some convulsive movements and the bird is dead.

The cause of flip-over disease is still obscure. Dr. Hanson says that heart attacks and enterotoxemia have both been suggested as causes, but neither theory has been substantiated.

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Flip-Over Disease In Broilers (cont'd)

He also says that decreasing the light intensity in commercial broilers barns, thereby slowing down the activity of the birds, appears to reduce the incidence of flip-over disease. Inhibiting the growth of the birds has also been reported to reduce the problem, but this is obviously not a practical approach. Apart from keeping the birds as calm as possible, there is very little that can be done to prevent flip-over in a flock of broilers, or to prevent it from occurring in other flocks, until the cause of the condition has been determined.

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April 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROWING APPLES IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

Although it will probably be a while before Alberta's home garden apple growers can compete with their counterparts in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley, they already have a wide selection of varieties from which to choose.

In fact, according to Grant Gillund, who is district agriculturist at Smoky Lake, and who has a large demonstration orchard there, the choice is no longer determined by the apple varieties that will grow here, but rather by the kind of apple the home gardener wants to grow.

Mr. Gillund started his orchard, which is almost an acre in size, and which contains 134 trees, in 1975. Since then he has added 10 to 15 new apple varieties every year. He says "I now have 64 different apple varieties and about half a dozen apple crabs, all of which are doing well. However, I still have a few more to get." He also has 22 plum trees, five pear trees, three cherry trees and one apricot tree.

Mr. Gillund's experience refutes the opinion, held by many, that it is impossible to grow tree fruits in northern Alberta. He admits that is can be challenging at times but stresses that it is far from impossible. He also points out that his orchard has proved that many of the apple varieties in the Alberta Horticultural Guide that are listed as being only marginally hardy will do well in northern areas, providing they are grown in a well sheltered area.

Rodents have posed the biggest problem for Mr. Gillund. He reports that mice stripped the bark from the trunks of 80 of his trees in the winter of 1980-81, with the result that their tops died. Deer and rabbits have also taken some trees, with apricots being their favorites. Mr. Gillund stresses that anyone who grows fruit trees in Alberta must protect them against, mice, rabbits and deer.

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Growing Apples In Northern Alberta (cont'd)

Last year he decided to evaluate seven of his apple varieties from the point of view of their eating quality. He was joined in this project by regional home economist at Two Hills, Edith Zawadiuk. After having been peeled, sliced and frozen, each variety was made into apple sauce and into pies. No sugar or spices were added so that the variety's true quality and flavor could be assessed.

Both Mr. Gillund and Ms. Zawadiuk, and a number of other people who took part in the evaluation, were extremely impressed by the quality of the apples and by the fact that they were superior in many ways to the commercial apples. According to Ms. Zawadiuk, Sunnybrook was the outstanding variety among those they tested. She says, in addition to being an exceptionally good eating apple, it makes excellent apple sauce and pies." Heyer 12, which is hardy enough to grow anywhere in the province, also made very good apple sauce and pies.

Ms. Zawadiuk summed up their eating quality evaluation project in these words. "We had as many different products and flavors as we had samples. And more importantly, we had apple sauce and pie fillings that were far superior in many respects to the commercial product."

She went on to point out that their project underlined the importance of handling each apple variety on an individual basis. In other words, one variety may require more sugar to make a pleasanter pie, while another may need the addition of a little ascorbic acid to reduce the discoloration of its apple sauce. "The real art of cooking apples," says Ms. Zawadiuk, "is to design a recipe that will enhance a specific variety's special flavor."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRAYER CHECKING TIME

Now is the time to check your sprayer if you did not check it last fall.

Alberta Agriculture's herbicide application equipment specialist, Terry Footz, says it is important to do this job early in the spring because most farmers have more time then than they will have later on and because they may find that they have to order parts from the manufacturer.

He points out that nozzle output will be difficult to assess accurately if the gauge is not accurate. And remember, the nozzle tips have been designed to produce a certain spray angle and output per minute at a set pressure at the nozzles. That pressure will influence the boom height that should be used.

"Most older sprayers", says Mr. Footz, "have the pressure gauge on the selector valve and if there is a restriction in the flow line between the selector valve and the boom, there can be quite a difference in the pressure between the two locations".

To check the sprayer's outflow for restrictions, Mr. Footz recommends temporarily installing a good gauge on the boom end of the sprayer. Then pressurize the sprayer and compare the reading with that on the main gauge. They should be the same.

To obtain a permanent check on the boom pressure, Mr. Footz suggests hooking a small line to one of the boom inlets and attaching it to a gauge that is located in a place that can be easily seen by the operator.

If ball-check strainers are being used on the sprayer instead of the ordinary nozzle strainers, it is important to remember that an extra 35 kPa of pressure will be needed to maintain the correct pressure at the nozzles.

Mr. Footz believes that the purchase of a gauge that has been filled with glycerine or oil is a good investment because the glycerine or the oil will prevent the gauge indicator from fluttering. This means that it will remain accurate for a longer time.

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April 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROGRESSIVE PORK PRODUCER AWARD NOMINATIONS DEADLINE

April 15 is the deadline for nominations for the Progressive Pork Producer Award, which is presented each year at the Alberta Pork Congress, scheduled to take place this year in Red Deer on June 12, 13 and 14.

The Progressive Pork Producer Award is designed to recognize young hog producers who are actively involved in pork production, who are operating in an exemplary way and who are involved in their community. The nominee must be the principal owner of the operation, derive more than 50 per cent of his or her income from the operation and must not be over 40 years of age.

Nominations for the award must be received by April 15 at the Alberta Pork Congress Office, Provincial Building, 4920-51 Street, Red Deer, Alberta, T4N 6K8.

Further information about the Progressive Pork Producer Award and about the Alberta Pork Congress can be obtained from the Pork Congress Office and from district agriculturists.

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April 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA 4-H DELEGATE TRAVELS TO WASHINGTON

Jeff MacFarlane, an eight-year member of the Medicine Hat 4-H Beef Club, will represent Alberta 4-H'ers at the 54th National 4-H Conference in Washington D.C., U.S.A. from April 9 - 15.

Along with nine other Canadian 4-H members, he will join 250 American 4-H'ers from across the United States in studying their national system of government, visiting the White House, touring Washington and sharing ideas.

The Canadian delegates will visit Ottawa prior to their departure, where they will have an opportunity to visit the parliament buildings and the citizenship court. They may also get an opportunity to meet members of parliament.

Prior to Jeff's departure, he will be meeting with John Currie, senior vice-president of Canterra Energy Ltd. in Calgary. Canterra Energy Ltd. and Ambassador Travel Services sponsor this annual event.

Jeff was selected as Alberta's delegate at the 1983 Provincial 4-H Selections Program last May.

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April 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED BIOCONTROL SCIENTIST APPOINTED IN VEGREVILLE

Dr. Alec McClay will be conducting research into the use of insects as agents for the biological control of weeds at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville. His appointment to the position of weed scientist (biocontrol) in the weed science group was announced by Dr. Bart Bolwyn, head of plant sciences at the centre.

Weeds initially targeted for study by Dr. McClay include leaf spurge, Canada thistle and perennial sow thistle. He will also be drawing up a priority list of target weeds, in consultation with Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch, for future biological control efforts in Alberta.

Insects to be introduced as biological control agents will first be studied at the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control Station in Delemont, Switzerland. They will then be introduced into Canada via Agriculture Canada's research station at Regina, which acts as a screening and clearing house for all such introductions.

Dr. McClay grew up in Northern Ireland and attended Cambridge University where he received his B.A. in Natural Sciences in 1974 and his Ph.D. in 1978. From 1978 to 1983 he worked as an entomologist with the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control. He was stationed in Mexico where he carried out studies on potential biocontrol agents, and several of the insects he found during those studies are now being tested in the field in Australia and India.

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April 2, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENTOMOLOGY SECTION HEAD APPOINTED AT VEGREVILLE

Hugh Philip, head of the crop protection group at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, has announced the promotion of Dr. Helen Liu to the position of head of the entomology section.

Dr. Liu is responsible for the insect diagnostic, extension, and applied research activities of the section. And she continues to be responsible for field and laboratory research on the protection of field crops from insect pests.

Dr. Liu received her primary education in England before obtaining her M.Sc. and Ph.D. in entomology from the University of Guelph, Ontario. Prior to joining the centre in 1980, she was employed as a research associate by the University of Guelph, Ontario, where she supervised a vegetable pest management program and conducted research on vegetable insect pests in southern Ontario.

Dr. Liu is a member of the Entomological Societies of Alberta, Canada and America, and is currently the editor of the bulletin of the Entomological Society of Canada.

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1984

Alberta Dairy Seminar
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff, Alberta . . . . . April 4 - 6

Soil Conservation Hearing
Holiday Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . April 11

Agro-Electronic Show
Westerner Exposition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . April 13 - 14

Alberta Home Economics Association Annual Conference
Chateau Lacombe
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . April 13 - 15

Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Finals
Big Four Building
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . April 14

Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board Annual Meeting
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . April 16 - 17

Purebred Beef Cattle Merchandising Symposium
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . April 24 - 26

National Forest Week
Province of Alberta . . . . . May 6 - 12

Calgary Horse Show
Stampede Corral
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . May 8 - 12

"Agenda for Action"
Conference on Managing Western Canada's Water Resources
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . May

International Congress on Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination
Urbana-Champaign
Illinois, U.S.A . . . . . June 10 - 14

Alberta Cattle Commission Semi-Annual Meeting
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . June 12 - 13

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Pork Congress
Westerner Exposition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . June 12 - 14

University of Alberta Feeders Day
Westerner Exposition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . June 15

Western Canada Farm Progress Show
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . June 20 - 23

Summer Meeting of American Society of Agricultural Engineers
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee, U.S.A . . . . . June 24 - 27

10th Annual Alberta Ram Test Station Sale
Olds College Campus
Olds, Alberta . . . . . June 30

World Sheep Congress
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . July 5 - 16

Breton Plots Field Day
Breton, Alberta . . . . . July 6

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . July 6 - 15

Canadian Home Economics Association Annual Conference
Ottawa, Ontario . . . . . July 7 - 10

Canadian Seed Trade Association Meeting
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 8 - 11

1984 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour
Athabasca, Alberta . . . . . July 10 - 12

National Canadian Seed Growers' Association Convention
Holiday Inn - Downtown
Winnipeg, Manitoba . . . . . July 12 - 13

National Alfalfa Improvement Conference
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . July 16 - 20

Edmonton's Klondike Days Exposition
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 19 - 28

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Women's Week
Olds, Alberta . . . . . July 23 - 26

Annual Meeting of International Association of
Milk Food and Environmental Sanitarians
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . August 5 - 9

Annual Meeting of North American Weather Modification Council
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer Alberta . . . . . August 14 - 16

Canadian Society of Extension Annual Conference
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . August 19 - 23

Agricultural Institute of Canada Annual Conference
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . August 19 - 23

Canadian Society of Soil Science
Banff School of Fine Arts
Banff, Alberta . . . . . August 26 - 29

American Water Resources Conference
New York, U.S.A . . . . . August

International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . September 10 - 14

Alberta Feed Industry Conference
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . September 18

Western Nutrition Conference
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . September 19 - 20

Poultry Servicemen's Workshop
Lake Louise Inn
Lake Louise, Alberta. . . . . October 1 - 3

Round-Up '84 Fall Agriculture Show
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 24 - 28

National Outstanding Young Farmer Program
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 26 - 30

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Northlands Farmfair
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 1 - 10

Annual Canadian Finals Rodeo
Northlands Coliseum
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 7 - 10

Seed Technology Workshop
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . November 12 - 24

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association — Annual Conference
Lethbridge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 19

Canadian Western Agribition and Mexabition
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 24 - 30

Christian Farmers' Federation — Annual Convention
Leduc, Alberta . . . . . November 30

Alberta Cattle Commission Annual General Meeting
Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . December 3 - 5

National Farmers' Union National Convention
Prince Edward Island . . . . . (Tentative) December 3 - 7

Winter Meeting of American Society of Agricultural Engineers
Hyatt Regency
New Orleans
Louisiana, U.S.A . . . . . December 11 - 14

1985

Annual Interprovincial Alfalfa Seed School
Regina Inn
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . January 13 - 15

Alberta Pork Seminar
Banff, Alberta . . . . . January 16 - 18

AGRI-NEWS

April 9, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 9, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIME FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REVISED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, has approved some revisions to the Agricultural Lime Freight Assistance (ALFA) Program which helps farmers with the cost of transporting liming materials by paying 80 per cent of the freight above $5.50 per tonne.

The head of the department's soils branch, A.W. Goettel, says the changes are designed to provide assistance to a larger number of farmers and to provide assistance to farmers who are located a considerable distance from lime suppliers. They include i) increasing the maximum freight rate allowance for farmers in I.D. No.23; ii) the initiation of a specific soil acidity level to qualify for assistance; and the establishment of a limit on the amount of assistance a farm or farmer can receive in any one fiscal year.

Mr. Goettel reports that the maximum commercial freight rate of 7¢ per tonne/km for hauls of up to 600 km has been extended for farmers in I.D. No.23 (High Level-Fort Vermilion-LaCrete) to cover hauls of up to 1,000 km. The rate for hauls that are greater than 1,000 km is 5¢ per tonne/km. All the other maximum rates remain the same — 11¢ per tonne/km for hauls of up to 200 km; 9¢ per tonne/km for hauls of up to 400 km; 7¢ per tonne/km for hauls of up to 600 km; and 5¢ per tonne/km for hauls of over 600 km.

Lime requirement test reports must now show that the soil pH is 6 or less for a field to qualify for lime freight assistance. And the report must contain a recommendation for lime to adjust the soil pH to 6.5 based on the double buffer or incubation methods. This provision is designed to establish a definite need for lime. According to Mr. Goettel, few, if any, crops are affected by soil acidity unless the soil pH is below 6.

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Lime Freight Assistance Program Revised (cont'd)

He says it has been found necessary to place a limit on the amount of lime freight assistance that is provided to an individual farm under the program, and that an applicant may now receive up to $15,000 in each fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). An applicant is defined as the registered owner(s) of the land as shown on the Certificate of Title. A farmer who receives the maximum amount of lime freight assistance could lime between 300 and 450 acres at a rate of 1.5 tonnes per acre in one year.

Further information on the ALFA Program and application forms can be obtained from all district agriculturists.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN WHEAT OUTLOOK

Canadian wheat will continue to face strong competition on world markets in the coming crop year.

Alberta Agriculture's grain marketing economist, Dwayne Couldwell, advises farmers to expect very small quotas on hard red spring wheat in the 1983-84 crop year even though Canada's wheat stock position is relatively healthy. He explains that quotas will be lower than they were last year because of an almost nine per cent increase in the country's wheat acreage in 1983, and because even though the 11.1 million tonne carryover is at a manageable level, it is still one million tonnes larger than it was in 1983.

Mr. Couldwell also says last year's wheat crop was of a high quality, with 77 per cent of the spring wheat qualifying for the No.1 or No.2 Canadian Red Spring Wheat grades. For this reason it is expected that quota restrictions will apply to the top two grades of hard red spring wheat. And Mr. Couldwell says, "Because of the very competitive nature of this year's world wheat markets, especially for high quality wheat, we cannot see the pace of exports that has prevailed over the last three years continuing. In fact, we expect wheat exports to be two to three per cent lower (about 20.5 million tonnes) in the coming crop year than was the case during the current crop year."

In view of the quota tightness and the pessimistic outlook for world wheat prices in the new crop year, Mr. Couldwell believes farmers would be wise to allocate all their spare quota acres to wheat now so that they can market as much as possible of last year's red spring wheat in the current crop year. "Bear in mind quotas for such crops as barley and canola are already quite large and will not be restrictive by the end of the 1983-84 crop year," he says.

In contrast to quotas for hard red spring wheat, quotas for soft white spring wheat and winter wheat are expected to be large and unrestrictive.

The above article is based on information that was available in March, 1984.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN FEEDGRAIN OUTLOOK

Canadian farmers can expect exceptionally large feedgrain quotas in the 1983-84 crop year and open market prices that reflect a substantial premium over the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) initial payment.

Dwayne Couldwell, Alberta Agriculture's grain marketing economist, expects elevator prices to reach $115 to $120 per tonne but not to go much higher. He points out that although the world feedgrain carryover will fall to 60 million tonnes (less than one month's supply), feedgrain prices will not fully reflect this situation because of surplus wheat supplies. Since wheat is priced very competitively with feedgrains, it will fill much of the potential short fall in that market.

And because Canadian barley supplies will approach pipeline levels this year, exports are not expected to reach a record level. In fact, they are expected to end the current crop year only marginally ahead of last year. This decrease in barley exports is mainly the result of a much smaller barley crop last year and an excellent demand for barley on the open market. The CWB was forced to defer barley exports to match supplies.

Mr. Couldwell says elevator basis levels will remain very narrow because of the small carryover and new crop prices are at a $7 to $10 discount compared with old crop prices.

He also says that Canadian barley futures appear to have peaked at $130 to $131 per tonne on the May contract. The volume of barley futures is running quite high, which seems to indicate strong selling on the part of farmers at these levels.

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Canadian Feedgrain Outlook (cont'd)

Mr. Couldwell reports that the futures' market has recently received some pessimistic forecasts regarding the size of the present crop year's final CWB payment. He says final payment forecasts of $7 to $12 per tonne have been made, which would make today's open market look quite attractive. However, even though the final payments are difficult to forecast, he thinks they will be much higher than the $7 to $12 range that is being suggested.

The above article is based on information that was available in March, 1984.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA PORK CONGRESS

April 30 is the deadline for entering breeding stock in the swine show and sale at the Alberta Pork Congress, scheduled to take place in June.

For further information contact Leon Boulter, Secretary Manager, Alberta Swine Breeders, Rosalind, Alberta.

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April 9, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN RAPESEED OUTLOOK

The current outlook for oilseeds is probably more optimistic than that for wheat or feedgrains because supplies are expected to remain tight into the 1984-85 crop year. However, this situation does not necessarily translate into higher prices for the new crop.

Dwayne Couldwell, grain marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, says Canadian carryover supplies of canola will dip to pipeline supplies in the current crop year. And he anticipates that farm carryover supplies will be only 375,000 tonnes in the next crop year because of the historically high prices this year and the general expectation that prices will be lower next year. A carryover of 375,000 would be 22 per cent smaller than that of last year when many domestic crushers found it hard to acquire supplies.

However, in spite of the anticipated very tight supply of world oilseeds, supplies are still expected to be adequate next year and new crop prices for October through November delivery are at a $60 per tonne discount compared with today's prices.

Hence, according to Mr. Couldwell, there is a very strong incentive for farmers to sell all their old canola crop in the present crop year. He also points out that the current tight supply situation can be expected to relax when the record South American harvest starts to reach the market in May. This is another important reason why farmers should seriously consider marketing their remaining old crop between now and May.

Mr. Couldwell expects a very significant increase in the 1984 Canadian canola acreage, which would widen the present elevator basis levels of $25 to $30 per tonne to between $50 to $60 per tonne by next fall. He feels an acreage increase of 20 to 25 per cent to above 7 million acres is very likely if canola prices remain near today's level of $396 per tonne until spring seeding.

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Canadian Rapeseed Outlook (cont'd)

He says, "While we would encourage farmers to sell old canola crop supplies now, we do not recommend hedging the new crop because we are concerned about the very large inverse in rapeseed futures markets. Also, because of the tight world oilseed market, this summer should provide some better opportunities to price the 1984 canola crop."

The above article is based on information that was available in March, 1984.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORRECTION

The Alberta Pork Producers' Marketing Board Annual Meeting (listed in the Coming Agricultural Events section of the April 2, 1984 issue of Agri-News) will take place at the Edmonton Inn in Edmonton on April 17 and 18; NOT on April 16 and 17 as stated.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROSSBREEDING SYSTEMS IN BEEF CATTLE HERDS

by Ross Gould
Beef Cattle Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Selection standards for new sires and replacement females are crucial to any beef crossbreeding system if the herd owner hopes to make progress towards the goals he has set for his herd.

The results of beef cattle crossbreeding research that have been carried out during the last 30 or more years has been summarized by Dr. Larry Cundiff of the United States Meat Animal Research Centre at Clay Centre in Nebraska, and he has made the following suggestions on how the results can be applied to both seed stock and commercial breeding systems.

He begins by pointing out that there is probably not going to be any one dominant crossbreeding system because the beef industry is characterized by great diversity. And he goes on to say that there are still a lot of cattlemen in the United States with only 25 or 30 cows. A similar situation exists in Alberta where the 1981 Canadian census showed that the average herd size is just under 50 cows and that two-thirds of all Alberta beef cattle producers have 50 cows or less. These statistics demonstrate that many cattle operations in Alberta are not large enough to justify an elaborate terminal sire crossing program. Many have only one bull and one breeding pasture.

Heterosis is the term applied to the improvement in performance that can be obtained by crossing parents from different breeds. And American and Canadian researchers have found that rotational crossbreeding systems, which are very easy to adapt to smaller herds, are an excellent way to utilize heterosis.

Dr. Cundiff reports that a continuous two-breed rotation will maintain heterosis at 67 per cent of its potential level from the original outcross. In such a rotation the females

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Crossbreeding Systems In Beef Cattle Herds (cont'd)

by sires from breed A are mated to sires from breed B. Later the daughters from breed B are mated to sires from breed A. This means, in practical terms, that if we gain an extra 30 pounds of weaned calf per cow bred from Hereford-Angus crossbred dams, compared with straightbred dams, we can expect to keep 20 pounds of that advantage in the two breed rotation.

Continuous three-breed rotations will maintain heteroris at 86 per cent of its potential, and the breeds chosen in such a system should have similar birth weights and ease of calving to avoid difficult births. If a breed with superior milk production is introduced into a rotational crossing system, it must be recognized that extra feed will be required to support that higher milk production, especially in the case of first and second-calf females. Again, if a three-breed terminal cross system, such as Hereford-Simmental-Charolais, produces an extra 75 pounds of calf per cow, compared with straightbred Herefords, the same three breeds in a rotation cross system would retain 65 pounds or 86 per cent of that advantage.

Specialized terminal sire systems have a little more to offer in the larger herds, according to Dr. Cundiff. He says a terminal sire can be mated to females that are not expected to produce herd replacement females. The level of heterosis from these matings would be a bit higher. And the more muscular, faster-growing sires could be used to improve performance even beyond the effects of heterosis. However, terminal sire systems are also the most complicated in that they necessitate maintaining several breeding herds and a high level of attention to such management factors as nutrition and calving problems.

The type of selection chosen should depend upon the type of crossbreeding system being used and upon the type of herd improvement that is needed. For example, Dr. Cundiff asks: "Are we wanting general purpose breeds or do we want a specialized breed for maternal purposes?". He suggests that fertility, calving ease and hardiness should receive

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Crossbreeding Systems In Beef Cattle Herds (cont'd)

the most emphasis in a general purpose system. To avoid undesirable increases in birth weights and mature size, post-natal growth rates should receive only limited emphasis.

On the other hand, breeders of seedstock for maternal breeds would want to select for fertility, calf survival and rate of growth from birth to weaning or factors that will result in the best weaning weight of calf per cow. Dr. Cundiff says that: "We certainly should not be selecting to increase mature size; if anything we should try to reduce size".

He believes that the terminal sire breeds are one place where breeders can justify strong pressure for growth at weaning and yearling time. However, with these breeds there should be pressure to limit calving problems by reducing birth weights.

Finally, Dr. Cundiff suggests that females in a crossbreeding system should not be mated to a terminal sire until they are at least four years old if calving problems are to be minimized. He says yearlings, two and three-year olds should be crossed to maternal breeds that are similar in size and that produce the optimum amount of milk.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDING ALFALFA PELLETS TO HORSES

Feeding alfalfa pellets has become a popular practice among horsemen because of the high nutritive value of the pellets and their ease of handling and storage, but overconsumption can be a problem.

Dr. B.E. Beck, head of Alberta Agriculture's animal diseases section, reports that autopsies performed on horses at the Alberta Veterinary Laboratory in Edmonton show that from four to seven show horses die each year from the overconsumption of alfalfa pellets which were fed as the only source of concentrate.

He explains that when alfalfa pellets are made, they are treated with steam and heat and then ground into small particles. When the pellets reach the horse's stomach, they absorb water and swell to three or four times their original size and overdistend the stomach. Since a horse cannot vomit, its stomach ruptures and the animal dies shortly afterwards.

Dr. Beck points out that this problem can be avoided by mixing the pellets with oats and being careful not to overfeed the mixture. He says it is very important not to water a horse for several hours after it has been fed pelleted feed.

He goes on to point out that there can be an additional problem if lactating brood mares are overfed pelleted alfalfa. In this case a mare which is receiving more protein than she can use, may in addition to excreting the excess via her kidneys, excrete it into her milk. And the abnormal milk may injure her foal.

"Horse Management – Feeding" (Agdex 460/50-1) is an excellent publication on horse ration formulations and their correct use. It can be obtained from district agriculturists and by writing to the Publications Office, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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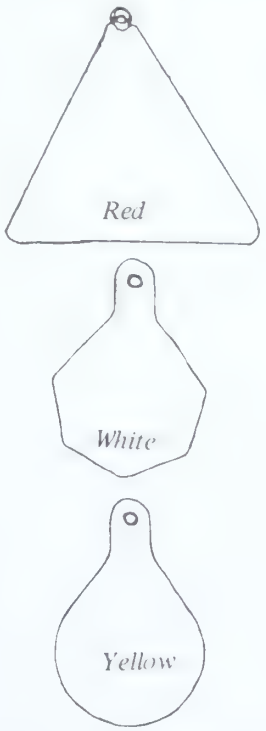
April 9, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE INSECTICIDE EARTAGS NOW AVAILABLE TO CATTLEMEN

Alberta cattlemen now have three types of insecticide-impregnated eartags to choose from when protecting their cattle against hornflies this summer.



The newest tag, **Atroban**, has just been registered for hornfly control on cattle. It is manufactured by the Burroughs Wellcome Company (Cooper).

Debantic came on the market in Canada for the first time last year. It is manufactured by Diamond Shamrock.

Bovaid has been used to protect cattle against hornflies since the summer of 1981 and apparently provides excellent control. It is manufactured by Cieba Giegy.

Dr. Ali Khan, Alberta Agriculture's livestock pest control specialist, reports that all three types of eartags are slow insecticide-releasing devices, and that they will protect cattle against hornflies during the whole pasture season.

He points out that one of the main advantages of insecticide-impregnanted eartags, compared with other methods of hornfly control, is that the cattle can be slaughtered without a wait period. Other advantages are that the tags can be used on both beef and dairy cattle, and that they are easy to apply. In fact, they are applied in exactly the same way that Allflex identification eartags are applied.

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Three Insecticide Eartags Now Available To Cattlemen (cont'd)

Dr. Khan says that studies which have been conducted in Alberta and in other parts of Canada have shown that hornfly populations can be reduced by as much as 98 per cent in herds where all the cattle are wearing insecticide-impregnated eartags.

Further information on the three types of eartags can be obtained from district agriculturists, agricultural fieldmen and Dr. Khan at 427-9051 in Edmonton.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1984 ALBERTA PORK CONGRESS PROGRAM

This year the Alberta Pork Congress will be held in conjunction with the University of Alberta's Feeder's Day in Red Deer. Feeder's Day is scheduled for June 14 and the Pork Congress is scheduled for June 12, 13 and 14.

The congress has been designed to provide participants with interesting and informative seminars. The first day will focus on "Feed Preparation" and topics will range from the feasibility of on-farm feed preparations to the technical aspects of milling feed, quality control and costs. Dr. Robert McEllhiney of Kansas State University, hog producers and nutritionists from Alberta Agriculture will all be involved in this seminar.

"Family Concerns" will be the theme of the second day. Elbert Van Donkersgoed of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario will speak about "Building Farms with Staying Power" (managing to survive the recession), and Bob Simmermon, farm leadership specialist with Alberta Agriculture, will talk about "Farm Labor and Productivity."

The consumer part of the program will focus on the theme "10 Years Leaner". Dr. Martin Collis of the University of Victoria, and author of "The Phacts of Life" will open the consumer program with two sessions entitled "Fatness and Fun" and "Maximizing Your Potential." There will also be a fashion show and information on stretching the wardrobe dollar.

In addition to the above there will be a swine show and sale with more than 80 industrial and consumer displays; an awards luncheon to honor the top hog producers, a barbeque and a banquet and dance.

The registration fee for the three days of educational and consumer seminars, industrial displays and social events will be only $4! Further information can be obtained from district agriculturists or from the Alberta Pork Congress Office, Provincial Building, 4920 - 51 Street, Red Deer, Alberta, T4N 6K8.

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April 9, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OVERWINTERING BEES ON THE INCREASE IN ALBERTA

Overwintering bees is becoming increasingly popular with Alberta beekeepers, according to a survey carried out last fall by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch.

The survey showed that 48 per cent of the beekeepers who responded to the questionnaire intended to overwinter their bees. Forty per cent of these intended to overwinter them out-of-doors, while eight per cent said they were going to overwinter their colonies indoors.

According to Michael Adam of the statistics branch, the overwintering of bees out-of-doors has been gaining in popularity over the last few years, while the overwintering of hives indoors has remained relatively stable at between seven and eight per cent of the total number of colonies that were overwintered in the province between 1980 and 1983.

The survey also showed that the proportion of respondents who overwintered all or part of their colonies rose steadily between 1980 and 1983. Last fall 67 per cent of the beekeepers surveyed indicated that they intended to overwinter some hives. This figure compares with 63 per cent in 1982, 58 per cent in 1981 and 53 per cent in 1980.

"An interesting observation revealed by the survey," says Mr. Adam, "was the increasing overwintering trend from the north to the south of the province." Thirty-eight per cent of the beekeepers in the Peace River region overwinter their bees compared with between 70 and 80 per cent in southern Alberta.

Further information on overwintering and other beekeeping statistics can be obtained from the Statistics Branch, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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April 9, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISEASE-RESISTANT VEGETABLE VARIETIES FOR THE HOME GARDEN

Every summer Alberta Agriculture's district offices receive numerous requests for aid from home gardeners whose vegetables have started showing such problems as wilt, leaf spot, leaf yellowing, premature defoliation, abnormal growth, fruit rot, etc.

One of the best ways a home gardener can avoid such a situation, according to the Alberta Horticultural Research Center's plant pathologist, Dr. Ronald Howard, is to plant disease-resistant or disease-tolerant vegetable varieties. He points out that numerous varieties have been developed in recent years that have very desirable horticultural characteristics plus a built-in resistance to many common vegetable diseases.

He also explains that resistance and tolerance are not the same as immunity, and that there is a different "shade" of meaning between resistance and tolerance. "Resistance", he says, "generally refers to a plant's ability to overcome, to some degree, the effects of the disease, while tolerance refers to its ability to withstand the effects of the disease without suffering serious loss."

Dr. Howard says diseases can sometimes greatly restrict the choice of vegetables and the choice of varieties that can be grown in a specific garden. The presence of fusarium wilt and verticillium wilt in tomatores are two examples of such a situation. If either are known to be in a garden, only tomato varieties that are resistant to them should be grown.

According to Dr. Howard, vegetable varieties that are listed in commercial catalogues as being resistant to various diseases may not necessarily be resistant to them under all circumstances. In other words, they may be resistant only under certain growing conditions or they may be resistant to only certain strains of the pathogen. If a catalogue lists a variety

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Disease-Resistant Vegetable Varieties For The Home Garden (cont'd)

as being "disease resistant", without specifying the diseases to which it is resistant, a gardener has no way of knowing whether the plants will be protected against the specific disease problem he may have. And there is no such thing as a plant variety that is resistant to all diseases.

Dr. Howard advises anyone who tries a vegetable variety for the first time, to do so on a very limited scale. "If it should turn out to be undesirable", he says, "it is better to have only a few feet of it than a whole row of wasted space".

Home gardeners who would like a guide to vegetable varieties that are adapted to Alberta conditions, and which are reported to have resistance to one or more of the common vegetable diseases, can get one by writing to The Library, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO.

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April 9, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF YOUTH

How does Canada's youth view this country's contribution to the world?

Nine top 4-H public speakers will share their ideas on the topic "Canada's Contribution to the World Through the Eyes of Youth" at the Provincial Public Speaking Finals at 3 p.m. in the Big Four Building in Stampede Park in Calgary on April 14. The event is open to the public.

The nine speakers who will be participating in the finals have successfully competed in several levels of public speaking. And they all cite an increase in confidence and self-esteem as benefits they have derived from public speaking.

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AGRI-NEWS

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April 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST PERMANENT BUILDING AT ALBERTA 4-H CENTRE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Smiling 4-H'ers pause during the recent contract signing ceremony in Red Deer for the construction of the first permanent structure at the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake. Signators were, seated left to right, 4-H Foundation of Alberta building committee chairman, Bob Boulton; construction contractor, Allan Johannson; past-president of the Alberta 4-H Council, Harold Anderson; and construction supervisor, Ike Johannson. Witnessing the signing were 4-H Foundation of Alberta physical plant chairman, Allan Shenfield; Findlay Johannson of J5 Enterprises; and 4-H foundation contract consultant, Don MacNaughton.

The first permanent building at the Alberta 4-H Centre on Battle Lake, 50 km west of Wetaskiwin on highway No.13, is now under construction. It is a two-storey, 6,200 square-foot structure that will be used for recreational activities, dining and meetings.

According to Bob Coe, media production coordinator for 4-H, the new building will be ready for use in late July, and it will be dedicated during the annual provincial 4-H rally in early August.

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First Permanent Building At Alberta 4-H Centre Now Under Construction (cont'd)

The contract for the commencement of construction was signed with the executive officers of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta and the Alberta 4-H Council in March by Allan Johannson, president of J5 Enterprises (1981) Ltd. of Red Deer. He is the oldest of five ex-4-H brothers, all of whom will be engaged in building the new facility.

Bob Boulton of Lousana, president of the Alberta 4-H Council and the foundation's building committee chairman, and Harold Anderson of Delancour were the principal signators for the Alberta 4-H Council and the 4-H Foundation of Alberta. They presented a cheque for $5,000 to Mr. Johannson to start the construction of the new building, which is estimated to cost a total of $189,200.

Mr. Boulton says "The installation of the utilities and kitchen equipment will bring the total cost of the building project to $200,000. We have about $154,000 in the foundation's account at the present time, and we have pledges and contributions to pay for the construction of the building. However, we need about $60,000 to pay for the installation of the utilities, furnishings, etc."

Mr. Boulton also says that the foundation hopes to receive contributions from the annual 4-H highway clean-up campaign and from individual 4-H club projects.

Most of the funding for the new building has come from 4-H club contributions. Ed Ness of Calgary, chairman of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta, says additional contributions of up to $5,000 each have been made by the Alberta Wheat Pool, Gulf Oil and other 4-H supporting corporations.

The present fund-raising phase for the Alberta 4-H Centre is the third large one. The first was in 1977 when money had to be raised to purchase the 143-acre block of land

First Permanent Building At Alberta 4-H Centre Now Under Construction (cont'd)

on the south side of Battle Lake. The second was in 1979 when funds were needed to purchase and install utilities and five Atco trailers to be used as a kitchen, for accommodation and for meetings.

Any enquiries regarding the Alberta 4-H Centre's building project should be directed to Bob Boulton at 773-2144.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANOLA MEAL IN SWINE RATIONS

The large scale production of Candle, Altex, Regent and Tower varieties of canola, together with local crushing facilities, has made a relatively low cost protein supplement available to hog producers in the Prairie provinces.

It is canola meal which is a byproduct of the canola crushing industry. It is virtually free of the glucosinolate problems encountered with the old rapeseed meal, and its palatability is considerably improved.

Although the protein content of canola meal varies, depending upon the cultivar from which it was produced, commercial canola meal generally contains 35 to 37 per cent protein on an as-fed basis with an average digestibility for pigs of 75 to 80 per cent. Its amino acid makeup is similar to that of soymeal, but its protein is slightly lower in lysine and higher in sulfur-containing amino acids than soymeal protein. Hence, the two protein supplements tend to complement each other when used in the same ration.

Sam Jaikaran, swine nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture, makes the following recommendations for canola meal inclusion in swine diets: Grower Feed (25-50 kg pigs) 7-10 per cent, Finisher Feed (50-110 kg pigs) up to 15 per cent and Sow Feed (gestation and lactation) 15 per cent. In fact, canola meal can be used as the only supplemental protein source in finisher pigs and sow rations without any adverse effects, providing the protein content of the grain portion of the ration is not very low.

Compared with soymeal-based rations, canola meal shows few, if any, disadvantages. At higher inclusion levels in grower rations some decrease in feed intake has been observed, but this has not been the case with finisher pigs or sows. Also, some trials showed slight decreases in daily gain (about 2%) and in feed conversion (about 2%) over the entire feeding period with canola rations, but this was generally offset by canola fed carcasses grading one or two points higher.

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Canola Meal In Swine Rations (cont'd)

Mr. Jaikaran says the decision to use canola meal should be based mostly on price and availability. The latter is usually not a problem. The price at which canola meal should be used in pig rations is based on the price of other commonly used protein ingredients, the chief of which is soymeal. In swine rations price should be calculated on protein content and protein digestibility. For example, canola at 36 per cent protein and 78 per cent digestibility works out to be worth 70 per cent of the 44 per cent soymeal with 90 per cent digestibility; and 64 per cent of the 47.5 per cent soymeal with 92 per cent digestibility.

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April 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKET GARDEN GRANT AVAILABLE AGAIN

If you are a market gardener, you may be eligible for financial assistance under Alberta's Market Garden Development Grant Program. It provides funds to eligible market gardeners of up to $750 per hectare (2.47 acres or 107,640 square feet) of vegetables and/or fruit.

The program was initiated in 1976 to increase market gardening in Alberta by providing assistance to growers in the form of grants to be used for buying seed, fertilizers, gardening equipment, etc.

To be eligible for a grant, a market gardener must grow and market all his produce from a minimum of one hectare. The grant covers all vegetable crops, except potatoes, that are commonly grown in Alberta and raspberry and strawberry plants that are bearing fruit. The vegetables and fruit must be grown under normally acceptable cultural practices and must be sold through a recognized marketing channel.

Since a market gardener is entitled to a grant for a maximum of only two years, anybody who has already received a grant for two years under the Market Garden Development Grant Program or the former Fresh Vegetable Incentive Program is not eligible for a grant this year. Vegetable growers who are eligible for grants must file an application by July 1 with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Additional information on the Market Garden Development Grant Program and application forms for the grants can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO or the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3.

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April 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HONEY SITUATION

Producer prices for bulk Alberta honey are expected to be in the range of $1.25 to $1.35 per kg this year, which would be lower than they were in 1983.

Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, Fred Boyce, points out that American dealers have been able to purchase ample supplies of imported honey at very low prices, especially from Mexico and Argentina, and that this situation has lowered their bid prices for Canadian honey.

He says Alberta's record 1983 honey crop, combined with large honey crops in the other main honey-producing provinces of Canada, has put additional emphasis on the importance of expanding our export markets. He also says that the strong Canadian and American dollars against European currencies have had a detrimental effect to date on the chances of increasing offshore sales. However, he feels the recent weaker tone of the Canadian dollar may encourage foreign buyers.

Alberta's 1983 honey crop is estimated to be nearly 39 per cent higher than the disappointing 1982 crop, 23 per cent higher than the long-term average for the province and to account for nearly 30 per cent of Canada's 1983 honey production.

In northern Alberta honey production increased by nearly 13.5 per cent last year despite nearly 4,000 fewer colonies compared with 1982. The average yield in this region was 20 per cent higher than that recorded in 1982 with many beekeepers reporting exceptionally high production from their hives. Initially a cool, dry spring raised fears of drought and another poor honey crop. However, the heavy rains that came during the last half of June and during the first part of July spurred crop and wild flower growth. Then warm sunny weather in August and early September provided ideal conditions for the bees to work.

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Alberta Honey Situation (cont'd)

In the Peace River region early honey extractions were disappointingly low, and many beekeepers were pessimistic about their 1983 crop despite the large acreage of clover. However, the exceptional honey flow that developed during August and September resulted in an average yield of 90 kg per hive, which was more than double the 1982 average yield and well above the long-term average.

In central Alberta, where weather conditions were normal, the honey crop was 6 per cent above that of the previous year and similar to the long-term average. However, in southern Alberta very dry conditions limited plant growth and reduced the nectar flow in the spring with the result that the honey crop was only 57 per cent of the 1982 crop.

Mr. Boyce says the quality of Alberta's 1983 crop was very good indeed.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLY CONTROL SEASON HERE AGAIN

The use of small, parasitic wasp-like insects for the biological control of house flies in poultry barns is currently being investigated at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville.

Livestock entomologist at the centre, and the person in charge of the investigation, Hugh Philip, reports that the parasites are released in an experimental barn at regular intervals. They lay their eggs in the fly pupae in the barn, kill the developing flies and produce more parasites. Mr. Philip says results to date are encouraging, but that still more study is needed to assess the effectiveness of this type of biological control of house flies in confinement barns.

In the meantime, poultry, hog and milk producers will have to make do with such conventional fly control measures as sanitation, residual wall sprays, slow-release strips and baits.

Mr. Philip stresses that proper year-round manure management and disposal practices are essential if fly problems are to be prevented in any type of confinement barn. This means that manure and garbage piles, rotting hay, silage, moist spilled grain, etc. should all be removed and disposed of before May to reduce the number of places that the overwintered flies can lay their eggs. In cases where manure that has accumulated during the winter cannot be spread on cropland, it should be piled up for later disposal, and a fly control program initiated as soon as the first generation of flies start to appear.

Chemicals can be used to control flies in three ways: as residual wall sprays, as insecticide-impregnated strips and as baits. Indoors the sprays are applied under low pressure to such areas as ceilings, light fixtures, windows, doorways, stanchions and walls where flies congregate. Out-of-doors they should be applied to any surface where the flies congregate in the morning and late afternoon.

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Fly Control Season Here Again (cont'd)

Fly strips or bands are particularly useful in milk rooms where sprays are not allowed to be used. The flies are either killed by contact with the strip or band or by the fumigant that is released by these devices.

Baits alone are not always effective in controlling flies, but they provide very satisfactory control when used in combination with a residual spray. According to Mr. Philip, baits are available in the form of loose granules to be scattered on the floors and window sills of confinement barns or in the form of granules that are pasted on cards or paper belts, which can be tacked or stapled on the walls and ceilings of confinement barns or beside the windows and other places where the flies collect.

Mr. Philip emphasizes that one chemical should never be used repeatedly over an entire summer because the flies will quickly develop resistance to it. He also emphasizes that care must be taken not to contaminate the feed, water or bedding in a barn that is being treated, and that the instructions and precautions on the product label should always be carefully followed.

A list of the chemicals that are on the market for controlling house flies in and around barns, and information on their preparation and application, is contained in a publication entitled "Control of House Flies in Alberta" (FS672-1). It can be obtained from district agriculturists or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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April 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Alberta's minister of agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, has announced that nominations for the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame are now being accepted.

Induction into the hall of fame recognizes Albertans who have made an outstanding contribution to agriculture and the rural community, and, according to Mr. Fjordbotten it represents "the highest honor Alberta Agriculture can bestow on an individual."

The hall of fame was established in 1951 and is currently comprised of 61 distinguished members. Any Albertan who displays devoted service to the development of agriculture at the local, provincial, national or international level may be eligible for entrance.

Nominations are considered by a selection committee made up of farm men and women from around the province. Nominees may have served the farming community on a professional or a volunteer basis, but they must possess valid Canadian citizenship. Preference is given to individuals directly involved in agricultural production, but agricultural business people, professional agrologists and rural community workers will also be considered.

Individuals chosen for induction into the hall of fame will be honored with a formal banquet and awards presentation ceremony. This event, to be held in March 1985, traditionally marks the start of Alberta's Agriculture Week celebrations.

After the ceremony, portraits and histories of the inductees for 1984 will be added to the Agriculture Hall of Fame display on the main floor of Alberta Agriculture's J.G. O'Donoghue Building in Edmonton.

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Alberta Agriculture Hall Of Fame Nominations (cont'd)

Nomination forms for 1984 are available through the department's district offices throughout the province or they may be obtained by writing to:

Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000-113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

The deadline for receipt of nominations is June 30, 1984.

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April 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLIMBING MOUNT EVEREST COMPARED WITH MANAGING A FAMILY FARM

Approximately 430 Alberta farmers heard experts from across North America outline many constructive ways of improving a family farm business during the 1984 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit Conference, which was held in Banff.

One of the speakers, John Amatt, president of the Canmore adventure company, One Step Beyond, compared his story of climbing Mount Everest to the struggles involved in managing a family farm business. And he pointed out how teamwork, commitment and proper planning, all of which were used in the successful climb of Mount Everest, are equally important in achieving success in a family farm business.

Dr. Y.T. Kee of the University of Manitoba in Manitoba gave a lively talk on the "Pursuit of Excellence", Japanese style. "As farmers," he said, "we must strive to do common things uncommonly well!"

Dr. John McCulloch, a back surgeon from Akron, Ohio, said in his presentation that farmers are prone to developing back problems, and he described a technique he has invented to help people who suffer from slipped discs in their lower back.

Sid Gordon, a Manitoba farmer, gave a very descriptive picture of Canada's grain marketing system and discussed how farmers can make money by using alternative ways of marketing their grain.

John Ward, a professor at Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois, was one of the most inspiring speakers at the conference. He illustrated the importance of having a strong, united and informed family when it came to succeeding in a family farm business. His studies of family farm businesses in the United States provided some encouraging and helpful information on how farmers can greatly improve their chances of passing on their farms from one generation to the next.

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Climbing Mount Everest Compared With Managing A Family Farm (cont'd)

Dan Hilsenteger and James Obniawka of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, and coordinators of the conference, both agreed that many of the participants could see themselves in the topics that were discussed by Dr. Eldon Morey of the Lakeland Mental Health Centre in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and Joyce Irvine of Lacombe's Family Learning Centre. "Their presentations made us realize and understand the special contributions that grandparents, husbands and wives and children all make to the success of a family farm business," said Mr. Hilsenteger.

The conference also featured a computer vendor fair where salesmen displayed a wide range of soft and hardware products and talked to farmers about their individual computer needs.

The Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit Conference is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture every year, and plans for the next conference are already underway. It is expected to be held in early 1985.

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April 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANNING A GARDEN

A well planned vegetable garden plot of about 20 x 30 feet can supply an average family with enough garden produce for the whole summer and provide enough for preserving as well.

Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Airdrie, Debbie Brekke, suggests that home gardeners, especially those who will be planting their first garden this year, make a sketch of the area they plan to plant. Then when planning where the various types of vegetables will go, consider their growth patterns to make sure that those that grow tall will not overshadow those that are low-growing. In a plot that has previously been planted to vegetables you should take into consideration soil moisture, crop rotations and insect problems. Ms. Brekke recommends that first-time vegetable gardeners keep the area small. As she says, "A small, well tended garden certainly beats a big weed patch!"

The next step is to choose your seeds. Since not all vegetables varieties grow well in Alberta, it is a good idea to consult the "Alberta Horticultural Guide" (Agdex 200/01) for recommended varieties. It can be obtained from any district agriculturist's office or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

When buying your seed, only buy enough of each type of vegetable for this year's use because the germination rate of vegetable seed delines rapidly with age. "If you plan to freeze or can your vegetables," says Ms. Brekke, "be sure it states on the package you choose that the variety is recommended for freezing or canning." She points out that some seed catalogues list more than 20 varieties of beans, but not even half of them are recommended for freezing or canning.

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Planning A Garden (cont'd)

There is a saving when home grown vegetables are properly preserved, but who can put a dollar value on the home grown flavor, quality and convenience? According to Ms. Brekke, some district home economists are working on projects to establish the actual dollar value of home grown produce. She says that the main costs involved in growing one's own vegetables are the investment in equipment and the time. However, it is time well spent for those who enjoy gardening. In fact, gardening can be a hobby that pays!

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April 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED CONTROL IN INTEGRATED PLANT PROTECTION

The Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville will hold a seminar on "Weed Control in Integrated Plant Protection" at 2 p.m. on May 2.

The seminar will be given by Dr. W.H. Vanden Born, chairman of the Department of Plant Science at the University of Alberta, who points out that weeds are part of an agro-ecosystem that contains insect pests, plant pathogens and nematodes. He says that pest control treatments often cause unpredicted changes in the population of other pests or predators, and that we are still a long way from integration in academic programs in the understanding of pest problems, in research approaches and in practical control measures.

The seminar will be held in the main conference room of the Alberta Environmental Centre and further information can be obtained from Dr. S. Ramamoorthy at 632-6761.

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April 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

Does your spring clean-up involve 54,000 bags of garbage? It will for 7,500 Alberta 4-H members in early May when they take to the ditches along provincial highways for their annual Spring Roadside Clean-up.

Alberta Agriculture's 4-H personal development specialist, Elizabeth Webster, reports that 4-H members and volunteer leaders have cleaned up more than 19,000 miles of provincial highway ditches in the last five years, which, she says, adds up to a lot of candy wrappers, beer bottles, etc. She explains that local clubs contract to clean up 10 miles of highway as community projects and fund-raising events.

Ms. Webster says"Since the safety of those involved in the Spring Roadside Clean-up is a prime concern, watch for red vests and the Alberta 4-H Clean-up Signs as you drive along Alberta's highways on May 5. And don't forget to wave!"

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April 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT PATHOLOGIST APPOINTED TO REGIONAL CROP LABORATORY IN FAIRVIEW

Dr. Ieuan Evans, supervisor of plant pathology with Alberta Agriculture, has announced that Terry Swanson was the successful candidate in the competition for the position of plant pathologist at the regional crop laboratory in Fairview.

Mr. Swanson is a native of Abbotsford, British Columbia, where his family ran a dairy and cash crop farm. He goes to Fairview following an appointment at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks where he worked with Dr. Ronald Howard on root diseases in pulse crops.

Prior to his appointment to the research center, Mr. Swanson was a graduate student in the Departments of Plant Pathology and Nematology at the University of California in the United States. While there he studied the root-knot nematode and fusarium wilt in legumes.

Mr. Swanson is presently a candidate for a Ph.D. at the University of California and plans to defend his dissertation this summer. He holds a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of British Columbia where he majored in crop protection.

He will be joined in Fairview by his wife and two children.

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April 16, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIAN APPOINTED AT OLDS

Jim Letal, head of Alberta Agriculture's regional crops laboratory in Olds, has announced the hiring of Stephen Slopek to the position of laboratory diagnostician.

Mr. Slopek will be involved in insect, disease and weed diagnosis and extension work. He will also be conducting applied field research and disease surveys.

He received his B.Sc. from Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, and recently graduated from the Master of Pest Management Program at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

Mr. Slopek has worked in right-of-way weed management and has been involved in the adaptation of computer pest management models.

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AGRI-NEWS

April 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURE AND THE GREAT TRADE SHOW OF CHINA

Did you know that Alberta Agriculture has played, and is playing, a major role in the Great Trade Show and Cultural Exhibition of China, which opened at Edmonton Northlands on April 14 and will run until May 5, 1984.

The show is the result of negotiations with the People's Republic of China that were initiated by the Province of Alberta in 1983 and is an attempt on the part of Alberta to redress the imbalance of trade that exists between China and Canada. At the present time China imports approximately $1.2 billion worth of products from Canada, while the latter imports only $200 million worth of products from China.

The Great Trade Show and Cultural Exhibition of China has been designed to provide Albertan, Canadian and American buyers with an opportunity to investigate and, hopefully, to negotiate the importation of some of China's large variety of good and services. It marks the initial phase of a new Chinese philosopy which includes increased trade with the Western World.

Alberta Agriculture's contribution to the show involves an input in two large exhibits, which in total cover 21,000 square feet. One is the Friendship with China Exhibit. It illustrates pictorially and graphically Alberta's "twining" agreement with the Chinese province of Heilongjiang. This special relationship came about after a year of discussions between Premier Peter Lougheed and the governor of Heilongjiang concerning potential areas of cooperation and was officially formalized by the signing in Alberta of a Protocol of Understanding and Friendship in 1981.

Located in northeastern China, Heilongjiang has a climate and topography that are very similar to those in Alberta, and it has an extensive agricultural base. In fact, Heilongjiang is the main source of grain and livestock production in China as well as that country's main oil producing region. It also has extensive coal and timber resources.

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Agriculture and the Great Trade Show of China (cont'd)

A number of potential areas of cooperation, especially in agriculture, have been identified by the two provinces and they will involve a continual exchange of ideas and technology.

A sub-agreement was signed between Alberta and Heilongjiang in 1982 in which both provinces agreed to increase trade and to exchange technology in the areas of pasture development and management, grains, oilseeds and vegetable seeds as well as in animal husbandry, which covers beef and dairy cattle and swine. Areas related to industries like processing, packaging and distribution systems are also under discussion.

When Premier Lougheed visited China last fall, he and Governor Chen Li agreed that additional areas of agricultural exchange would be advantageous to both provinces. They included livestock breeding and genetic upgrading and pasture development.

Alberta's other large exhibit at the trade show depicts Western Canada's grain industry and covers grain production, processing, transportation and terminal operations. It is intended to show Alberta's appreciation to the People's Republic of China for the large volume of wheat that country buys from Canada through the Canadian Wheat Board. Wheat is by far Canada's major export to China, and Canada ranks second only to the United States as a supplier of wheat to the People's Republic of China.

The new terminal at Prince Rupert is the theme of this exhibit, which consists of a 10 x 20-foot model of the rail yards on Ridley Island on British Columbia's west coast and includes pictures and audio visuals of the terminal construction, etc. The back drop of the display, which also shows how the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways propose to move a larger volume of Prairie grain to the West Coast, is a blue Heritage Grain Car.

The Alberta Wheat Pool's display shows the growing of grain and how it moves through the grain marketing system to its final destination. And it includes an operating model of a "Buffalo" bin elevator. The United Grain Growers, Cargill Grain Canada Ltd., Pioneer Grain Ltd. and Palliser Grain Ltd. also have interesting displays.

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Agriculture and the Great Trade Show of China (cont'd)

The Alberta Canola Council and the canola crushing industry show the growing, processing and the end use of oilseeds in their display. It includes a model of a crushing plant and audio visual presentations on the use of both the oil and the meal.

The fertilizer industry, represented by Esso Chemicals Ltd. of Redwater, Sherrit Gordon of Fort Saskatchewan; Western Co-op Fertilizers of Calgary and Cominco Ltd. of Carseland show the various formulations and uses of fertilizers in Alberta and their importance for maintaining and increasing grain and oilseed production.

The Forage Council of Alberta and alfalfa producers both have displays depicting their roles in agriculture. And the Canadian Seed Growers Association and Secan have a joint display that shows the new developments in both grain and oilseed varieties as well as the importance of good seed to the grain industry. And Simon-Day Ltd. has a small seed cleaning plant that is in operation.

The above are just a few of the many things that can be seen in the grain industry exhibit area, and those who put it together worked hard to make it interesting to other Canadians and to Alberta's Chinese guests.

Alberta Agriculture's trade director for trade shows, Frances Cullen, says the Great Trade Show and Cultural Exhibition of China is the largest exhibit of its kind ever to have been held outside China and that Edmonton is the only place in North America where it is being held. She also says "It is a tremendous event and well worth everybody's time to attend".

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARMERS URGED TO CARRY CROP INSURANCE

LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture, urges all Alberta grain farmers to carry crop insurance for the 1984/85 crop year and reminds them that the deadline for applying for crop insurance is April 30.

"In view of the very low soil moisture reserves, I suggest farmers take steps to protect themselves against crop losses which could result if we don't receive adequate rainfall this spring," Mr. Fjordbotten says.

At the time of making application, farmers must elect which crops they wish to insure. Mr. Fjordbotten suggests farmers buy insurance to cover all crops they think they may seed because the choice of crops to be insured cannot be changed after the April 30 deadline.

He says "Crop insurance protects farmers against more than drought. Losses caused by natural perils such as flooding, hail, frost, insect infestations and plant diseases are also covered by crop insurance. Since any of these factors could result in loss of income, it is important that producers take the appropriate precautions, through crop insurance, to protect their investments in their farm operation."

An application for crop insurance can be made at any Canada-Alberta Crop Insurance office.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM TAX FORM MAY BE MISLEADING

Farmers who have filed their 1983 tax return should check to see whether they have correctly filled out the new Capital Cost Allowance Schedule (CCA) for farmers (Form T2041 (E)).

Two new columns have been added to the form. Columns No.3 and No.4 are intended to remind farmers to reduce their CCA by the amount of Investment Tax Credit (ITC) which was earned in prior years, but not claimed until 1983. Depending upon how the farmer calculated his ITC in prior years, he may end up deducting the ITC twice rather than once as required.

The following example, submitted by Dan Hilsenteger of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, shows how an ITC credit that cannot be used in the year in which it is received can be handled.

John purchased a new tractor for $100,000 in 1982 that was eligible for a $7,000 tax credit (7% ITC), but, because he had no federal tax payable in 1982, he was unable to take advantage of it in that year. However, he did have two ways in which he could use it. First, he could reduce the purchase price of the tractor by $7,000 and add the net result ($93,000) to his Class 10 CCA. Secondly, he could add the full purchase price of the tractor ($100,000) to his Class 10 CCA and subtract the ITC when he actually claimed it. Either method is acceptable.

Mr. Hilsenteger points out that if John used the first method, he would not fill in columns No.3 and No.4 on the new form. If he did, he would be reducing his CCA twice for the same credit.

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Farm Tax Form May Be Misleading (cont'd)

If he used the second method, he would fill in columns No.3 and No.4 and reduce his Class 10 CCA by the amount of the credit he was able to claim against his federal tax payable in 1983. This means that if he had $3,000 federal tax payable in 1983, he would be able to claim $3,000 ITC, which would reduce his Class 10 CCA by $3,000.

Anyone who completed his 1983 CCA form incorrectly should wait for his assessment notice, Mr. Hilsenteger says, and contact his local taxation office when it arrives to correct the error. He also recommends that anyone who needs further assistance contact an accountant.

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April 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SWINE RECORD OF PERFORMANCE PROGRAM SHOWS GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT

The Alberta Swine Record of Performance Program (ROP) is continuing to grow and to show an improvement in the quality of the animals that are being tested.

Art Lange, Alberta Agriculture's assistant supervisor of swine breeding, reports that 17,660 potential breeding hogs (5,851 boars and 11,809 gilts) were tested on the premises of participating swine breeders in 1983. "This number", he says, "represents an increase of 11 per cent compared with the number tested in 1982."

The Alberta Swine ROP Program records the untrasonic backfat measurement in millimetres and the rate of growth from birth to 90 kg in days. According to Mr. Lange, the average boar tested last year had a backfat measurement of 13.9 mm and required 159 days to reach 90 kg. The comparable figures for the gilts were 14.8 mm and 167 days.

When the ultrasonic backfat measurement was just starting to be used 10 years ago, the 1,435 boars that were tested under the program had an average backfat measurement of 18.5 mm and took 181 days to reach 90 kg. The figures for gilts were 1,568 tested, 19.6 mm and 191 days. Hence, there has been nearly a five-fold increase in the number of hogs tested in the last 10 years, a 25 per cent reduction in their backfat measurement and a 12 per cent improvement in their rate of growth.

Mr. Lange says that 780 boars were tested at the Leduc and Lacombe testing stations last year under the federal government's part of the program. This was a slight reduction in the number that were tested in the previous year and was due to interior renovations

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Swine Record Of Performance Program Shows Growth And Improvement (cont'd)

being carried out in the Leduc facility. The average backfat measurement of the 780 boars was 15.2 mm and their average daily gain between 30 and 90 kg was 0.93 kg. The comparable figures recorded 10 years ago were 19.8 mm and 0.91 kg.

The 1983 annual report for the Alberta Swine Record of Performance Program is now available from the Pork Industry Branch, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-5319).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1984 CUSTOM RATES PUBLICATIONS

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has just released three publications related to custom work. They are. "Directory of Custom Operators in Alberta - 1984," "Farm Machinery Costs As A Guide To Custom Rates - Spring 1984," and "Custom Rates Annual Survey Summary - 1983."

The "Directory of Custom Operators in Alberta" contains the names, telephone numbers and services of those custom operators who willingly publicized their services in the following operations: cultivation, applications, haying, silage, grain, livestock, land clearing and miscellaneous. Each are sub-divided into more specific operations.

Gerd Andres, Alberta Agriculture's farm management economist at Olds, says the directory will benefit both custom operators and farmers. The custom operators will have a means of publicizing their services and farmers who want custom work done will know who some of the operators are in their areas. Mr. Andres points out that the names in the directory were submitted voluntarily. Since they were not screened, their inclusion in the directory should not be construed as a recommendation by Alberta Agriculture.

"Farm Machinery Costs As a Guide To Custom Rates - Spring 1984," calculates the costs for different sized machines used in major field and livestock operations. It provides a breakdown of fixed costs (depreciation, investment cost, insurance and housing) and variable costs (fuel, lubrication, labor and repairs) for the common farm implements. And, as its name implies, this annual publication is intended as a guide; it is not intended for establishing a "going" custom rate. The format of the publication is the same as in previous years and the costs are based on a survey of February, 1984 list prices which were obtained from farm machinery dealers in central Alberta.

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1984 Custom Rates Publications (cont'd)

"Custom Rates Annual Survey Summary - 1983", contains custom rates for the following operations: seeding, fertilizer and herbicide applications, haying, silage making, grain harvesting, tillage, livestock hauling, corral cleaning, fencing, land clearing and land rental in Alberta. The publication lists custom rates for each operation in two ways — as a price range and as the most common price for 1983. The rates are reported according to the six agricultural regions or according to southern, central and northern Alberta.

Mr. Andres stresses the publication makes no effort to evaluate the fairness of reported custom rates in 1983. It simply reports the rates that were charged in 1983; not what rates should be charged in 1984.

Copies of "Directory of Custom Operators In Alberta - 1984," "Farm Machinery Costs As A Guide To Custom Rates," and "Custom Rates Annual Survey Summary - 1983" can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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April 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED-CROP COMPETITION

The weed group of the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville is producing models that can be used by farmers to predict crop losses from such weeds as green foxtail, smartweed, stinkweed and volunteer cereals.

Although weed density is a very important factor to consider when assessing crop losses, other factors, environmental and otherwise, should also be taken into consideration. Hence, weed scientist, Dr. J.T. O'Donovan has set up field and growth chamber experiments at the centre to investigate the relative time of emergence of weeds compared with the crop, the length of time weeds are allowed to remain in the crop and the effects that soil moisture and the soil's nutrient status has on the relative competitiveness of different weeds and crops.

Dr. O'Donovan reports that results from field experiments that were conducted last year indicate that the time of emergence of the wild oat, relative to barley and wheat crops, can be an important factor when assessing crop losses. "Yield losses", he says, "were more severe when the wild oats emerged before the crops and gradually diminished the later the wild oats emerged."

He also says the more understanding we have about the factors that influence weed-crop competition, the better we will be able to predict the conditions under which yield losses will be most severe, and the better prepared we will be to instigate appropriate control measures.

Surprisingly, there is very little quantitative information available on crop losses from the many weeds that are common to Alberta. Apart from some mathematical models that are available to predict losses from different densities of wild oats and Canada thistle, farmers have very little information to help them determine the cost-effectiveness of controlling weeds in their crops.

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Weed-Crop Competition (cont'd)

Dr. O'Donovan recently presented a paper entitled "Wild Oats, Competition and Crop Losses" at a wild oat symposium in Regina, Saskatchewan. It contains a comprehensive review of the knowledge that has been gained to date on competition in cereal and oilseed crops and the resultant losses from Western Canada's most serious annual weed — the wild oat! Copies can be obtained from Dr. J.T. O'Donovan, Alberta Environmental Centre, Bag 4000, Vegreville, Alberta, TOB 4LO.

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April 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREEN CERTIFICATE FARM TRAINING PROGRAM OPERATING AGAIN

The Green Certificate Farm Training Program, offered through Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Manpower, is available again to young people who want to make a career of farming.

Established in the mid-1970s, it was temporarily suspended in early 1983 because of a shortage of funds. However, its popularity with both farmers and trainees has resulted in it being reinstated this spring.

The Green Certificate Farm Training Program is an apprenticeship-type of program for young people who are 18 years of age or older and who are prepared to undertake from one to three years of training. Applicants who are accepted must sign a training agreement with an approved trainer-farmer, who will be responsible for their training and for certifying their progress.

Trainees can obtain three separate levels of certification in any of the following areas of specialization: beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, swine, dryland crops and irrigation crops. The Level I certificate certifies that the trainee is a competent general farm worker. The Level II certificate certifies that he or she is a capable farm herdsman, and a Level III certificates certifies that he or she is a capable farm manager.

Specific skills are required for each level of certification, and the training objectives that have been drawn up for each level outline what the trainee must be able to do to be considered competent at that level.

In addition to on-the job training, trainees can take workshops, seminars, correspondence courses, tours, short courses and college agricultural courses. Although there is no specific time in which the training must be completed, the trainee must show continuous progress. Achievement will depend upon his or her past experience, education and progress.

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Green Certificate Farm Training Program Operating Again (cont'd)

What type of people enter the Green Certificate Farm Training Program? A recent survey of trainees who were enrolled in the program between 1978 and 1982 shows that their average age was 24, about half were single and half were married and 30 per cent came from non-farm occupations. Ten per cent of them had a college diploma or degree, while about 40 per cent had an education level of grade 11 or less.

Applications forms for the Green Certificate Farm Training Program can be obtained from any district agriculturist or Canada Farm Labour Pool office. And more detailed information on the program can be obtained from Lawrence McKnight, Supervisor of the Farm Training Section, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-2173).

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April 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H LEADERS INDUCTED INTO 4-H HALL OF FAME

Provincial 4-H Hall of Fame inductees, (L to R) Bob Burns of Pickardville; Bob Bunbury of Alliance; and John Moore of Tofield.

Two of the three 1983 4-H Hall of Fame inductees, John Moore of Tofield and Bob Bunbury of Alliance, were recently honored for their contributions to 4-H and to their communities. The third 4-H leader, Bob Burns of Pickardville, will be honored in June.

Mr. Moore, who was leader of the Tofield 4-H beef club for 30 years, was honored by representatives of a number of the community organizations he has served in Tofield.

Mr. Bunbury was honored in memorium for his contributions at club, regional and provincial 4-H levels. He served various Castor area 4-H clubs for about 15 years before he became councillor and reeve of the country of Paintearth. A plaque, which notes his

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4-H Leaders Inducted Into 4-H Hall Of Fame (cont'd)

achievements as founder and first president of the east-central region of the 4-H Council in 1972, was presented to his son, Bill.

Mr. Moore, Mr. Bunbury and Mr. Burns were all inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame during the Provicial 4-H Leaders Conference at Grande Prairie in November 1983. The occasion was only the third time since the 4-H Hall of Fame Program was established in 1971 that three leaders were inducted at the same time. Since the program began 16 4-H leaders and organizers have been inducted into the hall of fame.

Nominations for the 1984 4-H Hall of Fame are now being accepted. Considerations for induction include 4-H leadership skills, non-4-H youth activities and community, regional and provincial levels of 4-H involvement.

Nomination application forms are available from regional 4-H specialists, district home economists or the 4-H Hall of Fame committee chairman, Elton Dunk, 4-H Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

The successful candidate or candidates will be inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame at the 1984 Provincial 4-H Leaders Conference in Edmonton in early December.

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April 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO WESTLOCK

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Arla Kerr to the position of district home economist at Westlock.

Ms. Kerr was born and raised on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan and was a member of the 4-H homecraft club in Strasbourg for eight years. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a B.S.H.Ec. (general program) in 1980.

Following graduation, Ms. Kerr worked for Saskatchewan Agriculture's Food Promotion Program in Regina. She has been employed by Alberta Agriculture for the past two years as district home economist at Manning.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE'S 1984 PROJECT APPROVALS

Alberta's minister of agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, has announced that the province's Farming for the Future Agricultural Research Program has offered to support new projects worth more than $4.4 million during 1984-85.

"These new awards, which come at a time when everyone is trying to meet fiscal guidelines, reflect the importance of agriculture in the life of our province," stated Mr. Fjordbotten.

Farming for the Future began full-scale operations in 1979 and completed its first mandate at the end of the 1983-84 fiscal year. The program, which is totally financed by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, was granted a one-year extension by the Legislature last fall.

In the budget speech delivered in March, the provincial treasurer indicated that Farming for the Future would probably receive a three-year extension by the government to the end of the 1986-87 fiscal year.

More than 100 projects involving almost every area in agriculture are slated to receive Farming for the Future support in the coming year. The projects were approved by the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta (ARCA), which administers the program.

"As a world class research program, Farming for the Future faces a great challenge: to meet the ongoing demand of Alberta farmers for new and improved farm technology," said Mr. Fjordbotten. "It is a process which takes time, and also a process which is never quite complete. As a province which exports a significant portion of its production, it's vital that we remain competitive. A competitive edge comes, in part, from good farm management, but it's also extremely important that our farm operators and managers use the most efficient, most up-to-date technology available."

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Farming For The Future's 1984 Project Approvals (cont'd)

To speed up the process of transferring new technology from the laboratory to the farm, the ARCA established the On-Farm Demonstration Program in 1982. Under this program farmers are granted funding to implement and demonstrate new farming techniques in their own operations.

Because of the enthusiastic response it has received from Alberta's farm sector, the program has been expanded for 1984. On-Farm Demonstration, which invites project applications throughout the year, is budgeted at $400,000 for 1984-85, an increase of 33 per cent over the first year of this program. To date, more than 100 projects have been approved, with most projects still active.

With 199 projects funded during its first five years, all of which are in the final stage of completion, or in fact, completed, Farming for the Future faces the difficult task of disseminating the wealth of research information that has been obtained.

"Dissemination and transfer of information is probably the largest and most difficult task currently facing the program," said Mr. Fjordbotten. "Above all, information produced in the lab must not remain there gathering dust for years. That information represents our competitive edge. We must maintain that edge by every means available."

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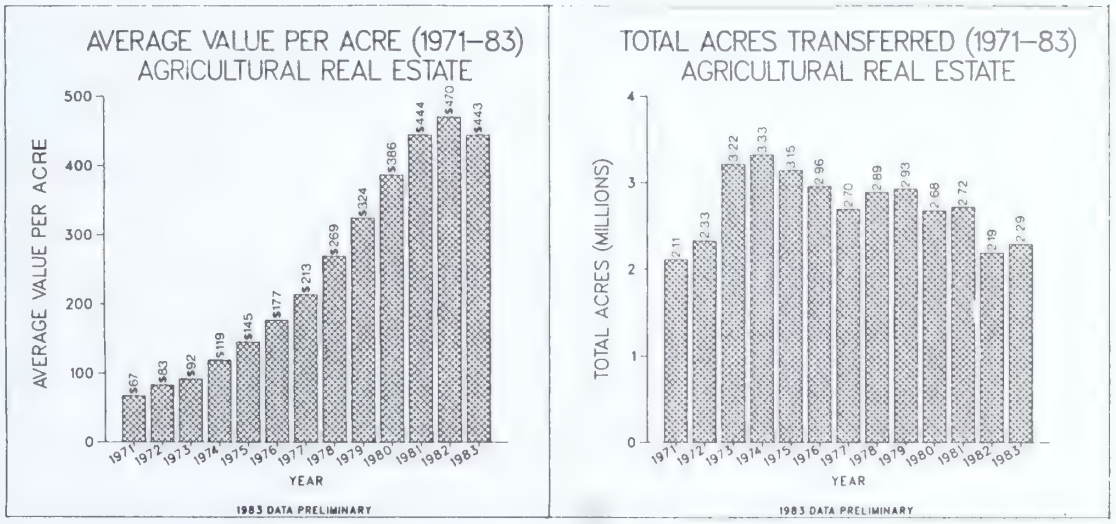
April 30, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL REAL ESTATE SITUATION



Alberta agricultural real estate values decreased last year for the first time since 1971!

According to Peter Woloshyn, resource economist with Alberta Agriculture, these values, which are the total weighted provincial averages, based on assurance fund values that are reported on documents registered with the land titles office, dropped by 5.7 per cent in 1983.

He says that farmers in this province watched agricultural real estate values increase at an average annual rate of about 21 per cent from 1971 through 1981. Then in 1982 the trend slowed and average values increased on a provincial basis by only 6 per cent.

Land transfers in 1983 increased by 4.5 per cent to 2.29 million acres compared with the 1982 level. However, the total acreage transferred in 1982 decreased to 2.2 million acres from 2.7 million acres in 1981 or by more than 19 per cent. The last time the land transfer level was as low as this was in 1971.

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Alberta Agricultural Real Estate Situation (cont'd)

Mr. Woloshyn says the sluggish land transfer activity in 1982 was an indication that farmers were not prepared to sell at substantially lower prices and that buyers, sensing the downward trend in prices, were not prepared to purchase at the current prices. However, when land transactions remained below average for the second consecutive year, those who wanted to sell land had to realign their price expectations and prices dropped in 1983 by close to 6 per cent.

Mr. Woloshyn also says that many Alberta farmers have been affected by the current realignment of the agricultural real estate market. Established farmers who owned a large proportion of their land through the 1970's and up until 1982 watched their equity and borrowing power increase steadily. In fact, real estate was a good hedge against inflation until recently because it allowed a farmer to use his land as an investment for future capital expenses. However, as a result of the high cost of land, people who entered farming at that time faced the problem of large debt financing, whereas those entering farming today have somewhat lower initial debt loads because of the decrease in land values. And established farmers who have used their land equity for borrowing power since 1982 have had to modify their expectations concerning their total available equity.

What is in store for the agricultural real estate market? Because a large part of the decision on whether or not to buy farmland depends upon current and expected net farm incomes, commodity prices and farmers' expectations of future commodity prices will have an important bearing on their decisions.

For those interested in following the agricultural real estate market, Alberta Agriculture publishes a quarterly entitled "Agricultural Real Estate Situation". Copies can be obtained from the Production and Resource Economics Branch, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

April 30, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPLANTS COMBINED WITH FEED ADDITIVES APPEAR TO PRODUCE SUPERIOR GAINS

The use of a growth implant in combination with a feed additive may be much more effective in improving the gains and feed efficiency of finishing steers than the use of either product alone.

Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle specialist, Ross Gould, reports that research carried out at the University of British Columbia showed that the use of the implant, Ralgro, in combination with either avoparacin (not yet on the market) or Rumensin produced significantly improved gains and feed efficiency in steers fed a ration consisting of 75 per cent steamed rolled barley and 25 per cent chopped grass hay.

The steers that received a combination of Ralgro and avoparacin showed a 20 per cent improvement in their rate of gain compared with the control group. They gained an extra 28 pounds during 100 days on feed, and they required 15 per cent less feed per pound of gain. This improvement in feed efficiency would reduce the cost of a pound of gain by 5 .

The steers that received a combination of Ralgro and Rumensin showed a 25 per cent improvement in their rate of gain. They gained an extra 28 pounds during 100 days on feed and they required 21 per cent less feed per pound of gain. This improvement in feed efficiency would reduce the cost of a pound of gain by 7 .

When Ralgro and Rumensin were each used alone, the steers showed about 9 per cent improvement in their rate of gain and a reduction of from 6.5 to 8.3 per cent in the feed they required to produce a pound of gain, but these differences were not statistically significant.

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Implants Combined With Feed Additives Appear To Produce Superior Gains (cont'd)

According to Mr. Gould, the University of British Columbia scientists reported that when they conducted a chemical analysis of feed samples to confirm the level of the active ingredient in the feed additive used in the ration, they found that the actual levels of avoparacin ranged from 63 to 116 per cent of the level specified by the feed supplier. And the Rumensin levels ranged from 18 to 77 per cent of the specified level. Mr. Gould says the scientists have suggested that the carrier, storage conditions and storage time may have an influence on the amount of active ingredient that is actually present in the feed. They also suggested that the level variations may help to explain some of the differences that occur in the results that are reported in feeding trials in which feed additives are used.

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April 30, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1984 FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR FORECAST

It seems that Alberta's seven-year forest tent caterpillar epidemic is finally almost over. The only areas forecast to suffer moderate to severe aspen tree defoliation are those north and northwest of Valleyview, west of Edmonton and southwest of Lloydminster.

The above map shows the moderate to severely defoliated areas of aspen trees in 1983 with the 1984 forecast superimposed

Caterpillar egg band surveys, carried out in 72 locations last October by the Canadian Forestry Service, indicate that only 17 per cent of the localities surveyed will suffer severe aspen defoliation this year compared with 42 per cent in 1982. And the current trend is towards a continuing decline in the province's forest tent caterpillar population. However, a post-egg hatch survey will be conducted this spring by the forestry service to determine the winter survival rate of last year's forest tent caterpillar eggs.

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says the present caterpillar outbreak involved approximately 130,000 km^2 of aspen

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1984 Forest Tent Caterpillar Forecast (cont'd)

forest defoliation at its peak in 1982. It began in 1977 after the relatively stable caterpillar population level which had followed the end in 1965 of the last major outbreak.

According to Dr. Soehngen, last year's forest tent caterpillar population was much smaller than it had been in 1982 -- it involved the defoliation of only about 39,984 km^2 of aspen trees. He points out that the main collapse in the outbreak took place north of an imaginary line joining Fairview and Athabasca.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE 3 Cs AND 3 Rs OF CREDIT

by George Maicher
Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture

Do you know how a banker evaluates a farmer as a credit risk before he lends the farmer the money he needs to carry out his plans?

Credit managers often consider many criteria when assessing someone as a creditor, and the criteria may vary from one institution to another. The lending policies of chartered banks, for example, will differ from those of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, the Farm Credit Corporation and other institutions that lend to farmers and ranchers.

Lenders know that to make a proper loan decision principles and concepts must be considered. But how does a financial institution judge a borrower's credit worthiness? He does it primarily by observing the borrower's ability to solve problems over a period of time and by evaluating the nature of the loan requested and the borrower's financial progress. Alberta Agriculture's publication, "Control Your Farm's Financial Future By Analyzing Your Farm's Finances" will help you to calculate your financial ratios and to see whether or not you are making financial progress.

The 3 Cs — Character, Capacity and Collateral — and the 3 Rs — Returns, Risk and Repayment Capacity — are the general criteria applied by bankers when administering loans. While the criteria have remained the same over many years, the emphasis lenders have put on the individual principles has changed over time to reflect changing conditions in the agricultural industry. In the recent past, collateral played a dominant role in assessing a farmer's credit worthiness, while today's agricultural realities have shifted the emphasis to character and capacity.

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The 3 Cs And 3 Rs Of Credit (cont'd)

The ability to borrow sufficient funds is an asset which can be improved with practice. When developing credit worthiness, it helps to look at it from the lender's point of view. Ask yourself what a lender might consider before he decides to give you a loan.

The Alberta Agriculture publication "The 3 Cs and 3 Rs of Credit" (Agdex 832-5) discusses these six credit criteria and how they are applied to agricultural borrowers. It and "Control Your Farm's Financial Future by Analyzing Your Farm's Finances" (Agdex 818-15) can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN SURVEY

People grow vegetables for many different reasons. Some find it a relaxing hobby or a welcome change from an indoor job. Others gain satisfaction from successfully growing some of the more challenging vegetables, while still others appreciate the practical advantage of having an abundance of good quality fresh vegetables in the summer and good quality canned or frozen vegetables in the winter. Then there are the advantages that the use of chemicals can be minimized in a home garden, and a home garden can substantially cut the cost of a family food bill.

Marie Diedrichs of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre at Oliver, reports that a small, informal survey that was carried out by the centre in several rural districts around Edmonton to find out how people set up their gardening programs revealed some interesting generalizations.

The data showed, for example, that the majority of the gardeners that answered the questionnaire had their garden plots on farms, and that the average size of these plots was 1670 m^2 (18,000 square feet or 0.4 acres). The largest of the gardens surveyed was 9750 m^2 (105,000 square feet or 2.4 acres). And in many cases the row spacings were far enough apart to allow a garden tractor to do the cultivating. The town gardens were, of course, considerably smaller with the average size being 186 m^2 (2000 square feet).

Ms. Diedrichs says the response to the survey question on fertilizer use was quite varied. Although most people fertilized their gardens, the frequency ranged from once a month to once every five years. Sheep, pig or chicken manure was the fertilizer most commonly used on both the farm and town gardens. According to the survey, it was usually worked into the soil once a year or every second fall. Commercial fertilizers like 16-20-0, 21-0-0, 34-0-0, 8-24-24 and 11-48-0 were also used.

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Home Vegetable Garden Survey (cont'd)

The sources of seed used by the home gardeners included local stores, garden centres and seed catalogues. The catalogues mentioned by the respondents were Bowden, Stokes, T & T, Dominion and MacFayden, all of which list some vegetable varieties that are specifically suited to Alberta's growing conditions. The survey data showed that pea, bean and corn seed was occasionally collected from the previous year's garden.

Although some of the gardeners surveyed limited themselves to growing only a few kinds of vegetables that did not require a lot of special care, others grew as many as 20 different types of vegetables or planted their seed on several different dates to prolong the harvesting period of a particular type of vegetable. A number of the gardeners mentioned that they grow herbs which include parsley, dill and garlic.

The types of garden produce that were mentioned least frequnetly as being grown by those who took part in the survey included asparagus, green peppers, eggplants, celery, brussel sprouts, kohlrabi, spinach, swiss chard, cantaloupes and watermelon. According to Ms. Diedrichs, these can all do very well in a home garden with a little special care.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUTCH ELM DISEASE SITUATION

Since Dutch Elm Disease (DED) was discovered in the United States in 1929, and in Canada in 1944, it has spread throughout much of the eastern part of North America.

Having first been discovered in Manitoba in 1975, it now occurs in most areas of that province. It was subsequently found in Saskatchewan and was eliminated, but so far it has not yet been found in either Alberta or British Columbia.

The symptom of the disease that a layman usually notices first is the yellowing and wilting of one or more twigs on a tree that otherwise appears to be in good health. As the disease progresses more twigs and branches die until the whole tree finally succumbs. A check under the bark of such a tree will usually reveal a network of tunnels that has been made by European or native elm bark beetles, both of which spread the fungus that causes DED.

The fungus grows in the vascular system of an infected tree where it produces a toxic substance that interferes with the tree's water uptake. It is most often transmitted between trees by the two species of beetles, which breed in the cambium region of the bark of elm trees and elm logs, but it can also be transmitted via root grafts between neighboring trees.

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, reports some work has been done on attractants that may be used to monitor the migration into new areas of the elm bark beetles, and that a bacterium plus a fungicide has been injected into elm trees to counteract the DED fungus.

At the present time, however, the selection of elm species and hybrids that are resistant to DED seems to hold out the most promise. Scientists are hoping to develop a strain of elms that is resistant to DED fungi and that has many of the desirable characteristics of the present American elm.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANDARD PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR PESTICIDE USERS

Everyone who handles pesticides should read the label on the container very carefully, and he should wear the standard protective clothing to avoid potential health hazards, says Alberta Agriculture's provincial clothing and textile specialist, Bertha Eggertson.

Pesticides include herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, and the standard protective clothing that is recommended is:

- A long-sleeved shirt
- Full-length pants
- Overalls
- Unlined neoprene or rubber gloves
- High rubber boots
- A wide-brimmed hat

Ms. Eggertson explains that cloth or leather gloves, leather shoes or sneakers and a baseball cap should never be substituted for the standard protective clothing listed above because they absorb chemicals. And this means they will expose the wearer to the chemicals.

In some cases, goggles and a respirator are recommended for anyone handling pesticides. Goggles or a face shield protect the eyes and the face against pesticide vapors, dust and splashes, while a respirator will prevent the inhalation of dust, powders and sprays.

A respirator covers the nose and mouth and contains a charcoal cartridge as well as a filter pad to filter out dust and spray particles. Ms. Eggertson points out that the risk of a health hazard from using pesticides will be greatly reduced if the respirator cartridge is changed after eight hours of use or when the wearer detects a chemical odor.

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Standard Protective Clothing For Pesticide Users (cont'd)

She advises anybody who has handled pesticides to shower and change his clothes when the operation is finished.

The above information plus information on laundering pesticide-contaminated clothing is contained in a publication entitled "Protective Clothing for Use with Pesticides" (Homedex 1353-90). It can be obtained from district home economists or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Alberta students who have been active members of 4-H may be eligible for a special 4-H future education award.

According to Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's 4-H personal development specialist, there are 15 different scholarships for which eligible students may apply. The value of the individual scholarships ranges from $250 to $3,000 and the total value of the scholarships is more than $17,000.

She says achievement in 4-H, academic performance and community involvement are some of the key criteria the selection committee will be looking at when they review the applications and make their decisions. The scholarships have been donated by different organizations who have specified conditions which must be met by the applicant.

4-H members who are interested in applying for one of the special 4-H further education awards can obtain more information and application forms from their district home economist or from their regional 4-H specialist.

July 15, 1984 is the deadline for receipt of applications by Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch in Edmonton.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTS

by Catherine Sinnott
Regional Food Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Public awareness of the link between health and nutrition has increased markedly during the last few years, with the result that many people are susceptible to questionable, and sometimes harmful, claims by food faddists.

The most dangerous situation occurs when people feel that they can diagnose their own ailments, and those of their families, and prescribe treatment with vitamin supplements.

Most people think vitamins are safe to take in any amounts. However, there are 4,000 cases of vitamin poisonings every year in the United States, and of these, 80 per cent occur among children.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s a survey of 1,296 kindergarten and grade I students, conducted in Burlington, Ontario, showed that vitamin overdoses were most closely related to the use of multivitamins. And the incidence of accidents rose with the frequency with which vitamins were used in the home.

Interviews with family doctors in the Burlington area revealed that they felt pressured by parents to prescribe vitamins for a variety of conditions, which ranged from "picky eating" to "unbalanced diets".

At about the same time as the Burlington survey was being carried out, studies conducted in Toronto and Montreal showed that the average 18-month old child was getting 600 per cent of the recommended allowance of vitamin C and 430 per cent of the recommended amount of vitamin A.

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Vitamin Supplements (cont'd)

Although megadoses of vitamin C were once considered safe, there is now evidence that they can cause side-effects. The most common of these are nausea, abdominal cramps and diarrhea.

The consumption of a large quantity of vitamin A can also be harmful. Among the side-effects are skin lesions, hair loss, headaches, blurred vision and diarrhea.

In short, the risks associated with a high intake of vitamins are not worth it. And the smaller body mass of children makes them even more susceptible than adults to vitamin toxicity.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VEGETABLE EXTENSION SPECIALIST APPOINTED

George Grainger, director of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre near Edmonton, has announced that Phil Dixon was the successful candidate in the competition for the position of vegetable extension specialist at the centre.

Mr. Dixon is a native of Edmonton and was district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House prior to his present appointment. Throughout his career he has been a strong proponent of specialty crop production and marketing.

Mr. Dixon is a candidate for an M.Sc. in vegetable production from Oregon State University, U.S.A., which he plans to complete in 1985. He presently holds a B.Sc. in agriculture from the University of Alberta where he majored in horticulture (vegetables and small fruits). His minor was in production economics.

Mr. Dixon and his wife have one child and are expecting another.

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